STARS STRIPES.

Julia Roberts gives birth to twins



Iwakuni cacophony revs up Toys for Tots campaign



Raiders overcome snow, Broncos for road win

NFL coverage Pages 36-40

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1. 2004

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7.1 magnitude quake injures 24 in Japan

Temblor in north causes rumblings, but no reported harm, at Misawa Page 9



SHOULD MEDICAL MARIJUANA BE LEGAL ?

Supreme Court hears Calif. woman's case

Page 12

Angeit Racien Kneess lossileg arso of marginana at ner Oakland, Califf., home in early Noember. Beset by a nightmarish list of ailments that includes tumors in berain and uterus, selezures, spassma and nausea, she said she has been able to find comfort only in the marijuana that is prescribed by her doctor. She filed suit against the federal government seeking legal use of marijuana.

STARSSTRIPES

COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Onsens hot topic in South Korea



Kate Bosworth

Sunday

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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Slain baby in Texas: The attorney for a woman who admitted killing her baby daughter by severing the child's arms says his client is disoriented

Dena Schlosser of Plano, Texas, ged with capital murder. I charged 11-month-old daughter, Margaret, died last week after her arms were severed.
"She's very confused about her situation

David Haynes, Schlosser's court-appointed attorney, said in Monday's edition of The Dallas Morning News. "I don't think she's presently competent to stand trial.

Divorce from father: A judge has ordered the legal guardians of a New Hampshire boy who "divorced" his murderer father to explain why they have not provided an accounting of the teenager's finances. Ron and Rita Lazisky, of Sandown, N.H.,

vere ordered by Norfolk County Probate Judge Robert Langlois to appear in court to explain why they should not be found in contempt of a court order. Ron Lazisky said.

However, the Laziskys never got Lan-glois' order to produce an accounting, Lazisky said. They only learned of it two weeks ago when their former lawyer got a call from the court clerk asking why they hadn't submitted it.

Oklahoma City bombing: Terry Nichols admitted during plea negotiations in his state trial last year that he played a major role in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Nichols admitted to prosecutors in a igned statement that he helped Timothy McVeigh make the bomb that killed 168 peo ple in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, The Oklahoman reported. Nichols, 49, is serving life sentences with-

out parole for separate convictions in state and federal courts for his role in the bombings

World

International space station: The U.S.-Russian crew of the international space station successfully re-docked a spaceship at a new port on the station Monday in preparation for two spacewalks early next year, Mission Control said

Russian Salizhan Sharipov and American Leroy Chiao re-docked the Soyuz TMA-5 spaceship after a 23-minute flight from the Pirs docking port to the Zarya cargo module, Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin said.



Delaware River oil spill: Volunteers help a worker with the Delaware County Animal Control round up animals harmed by a crude oil spill on the river's bank in Essington, Pa. Divers found a six-foot gash in a cargo tank on the Greek-owned tanker that leaked 30,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River, spokesmen for the Coast Guard and the vessel's owner said Sunday. The spill, the worst on the river in nearly a decade, stranded commercial vessels trying to move goods through the busy Port of Philadelphia, killed or injured hundreds of birds and angered residents along shoreline communities

Gaza withdrawal: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was set on a collision course Monday with his most loval coalition partner. the Shinui Party, raising prospects of early elections that could postpone an Israeli with drawal from the Gaza Strip.

Sharon has been walking a political tightrope since he lost his parliamentary majority several months ago, with hard-liners bolting over his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements in

Sudan aid groups: Sudan ordered Monday the expulsion of the directors of two British-based humanitarian organizations, accusing them of sending "signals of support" to rebels in Darfur.

Sudan's Humanitarian Affairs Commission said the program directors of Save the Children UK and Oxfam International had violated the law on nonintervention in the country's political, ethnic or sectarian is-

'[Y]on must leave the country within 48 hours," the acting commissioner, Abdel Khaliq Al-Hussein, said in letters addressed to the local directors of the aid organizations

Victims of Pinochet regime: Chilean Pres-

ident Ricardo Lagos on Sunday said he planned to compensate thousands of people who were imprisoned and tortured under the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Lagos said he made up his mind after studying a gruesome report on torture during Pinochet's 1973-90 regime. The report was prepared by a commission that heard

testimonies from 35,000 people.

Pinochet's right-wing dictatorship fiercely suppressed leftists, dissidents and others perceived as opponents, imprisoning, exiling, torturing and killing thousands. Many of them simply disappeared.

Nuclear inspectors in South Korea: The U.N. nuclear watchdog will send a group of inspectors to South Korea next week for additional investigations into the country's past secret nuclear experiments, officials said Monday.

The inspection follows a decision Friday by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency not to refer South Korea's nuclear experiments to the U.N. Security Council

The IAEA's board of governors criticized South Korea for conducting plutonium and uranium experiments in 1982 and 2000 without reporting them to the agency.



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Staying Navy a bonus

Some sailors qualify for big bucks to re-enlist

Navy announcements on The

Selective Reenlistment Bonus and Enlisted Supervisor Reten-

at: www.persnet.navy.mil

www.stavnavv.navv.mil

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Strines

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain - The Navy is giving an early holiday gift to sailors in hard-to-fill jobs who re-enlist

The Navy has released an updated list of bonuses for sailors in jobs that the service needs the most — the first revision of the Navy's Selective Reenlistment Bonus in

more than a year. Fifty-four job ratings and Navy Enlisted Classifications have been added to the list, according to Lt. Jim LeViness, a spokesman for the Navy Personnel Command in Millington. Tenn. Fifty-five ratings been dropped from the list and are no

longer eligible for more money, Nearly 200 iob classifications are on the bonus list

Nuclear-trained sailors can get the biggest bonus for re-enlisting.

Those with at least six years of service but no more than 10 can get as much as \$65,000. Sailors eligible for the Enlisted Supervisor Retention Pay can get even more -\$100,000 - if they meet the requirements.

The Enlisted Supervisor Retention Pay program is separate from the Selective Reenlistment Bonus and is designed to keep senior enlisted supervisors in critical jobs. Those who accept the supervisor bonus are not eligible for the Selective Reenlistment

Cryptologic technicians, hospital corps men and fire controlmen are also on the revised list. A second-class petty officer trained as a cryptologic technician and with four years of service would get \$45,000 if he or she re-enlists for a six-year term. For three years, the bonus drops to a little more than \$31,000

A third-class netty officer classified as a fire controlman and with three years of service would get more than \$40,000 for sign-

ing up for six years. He or she would get about \$19,000 for re-enlisting for three years.

tion Pay Program can be found The Selective Reenlistment Bonus is a pro-Selective Reenlistment gram that helps Bonus Calculator can be found at: Navy keep sailors in job ratings or Navy Enlisted Classification codes that

are difficult to fill. Sailors must have served at least 21 months and be eligible to re-enlist in the Navy three or more years.

Sailor bonuses are calculated by a formula that includes such factors as time in service, pay grade and the length of the re-en-

Award increases became effective Nov. 15, while decreased award levels will be-come effective Dec. 15, according to a Navy message.

Future Selective Reenlistment Bonus lists are to be adjusted more frequently so the Navy can continue to keep sailors in critical jobs, the message said.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Motorcycles are aligned across the parking area at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station's Hornets' Nest the day of the 2002 Toys for Tots Thunder Run. The annual event kicks off the campaign to provide donated Christmas presents to children at area orphanages.

Cacophony jump starts Toys for Tots campaign

BY GREG TYLER Stars and Strines

The early-December roar of about 150 motorcyclists riding caravan-style through the base is the sound that signifies the start of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station's Toys for Tots campaign.

The annual cacophony - named the Thunder Run — takes place at noon on Sunday. About 100 motorcycle enthusithe Japanese community join more than 50 base riders as they cruise the perimeter of the air station.

"Oh yes, it gets plenty loud. People around here are used to regularly hearing aircraft engines, but this draws even their attention," Jay Stovall, Single Marine Program coordinator, said Monday from his office at the SMP facility, the Hornets' Nest, "Then we come back here and park the motorcycles and have a great time with a barbecue.'

One planned highlight is a performance by taiko drummers sponsored by Iwakuni's Japan and America Friendship

"All we ask is that those participating in the Thunder Run, or attending the rest of the afternoon event, bring a new toy, still in its original packaging, with a value of \$25 or less." Stovall said.

Immediately after the Thunder Run, and before the cookout and entertainment, a short ceremony signifying the start of Toys for Tots is scheduled.

The same day, Marines and sailors wearing dress uniforms will work shifts at the base's Marine Corps Exchange en trance. "They are just there to open doors for people; that's all," Stovall said. "It's not to solicit gifts from customers but just are the donation boxes."

The primary participants are servicemembers involved with the Single Marine Program.

Sgt. Shane Bailey, 23, of Marine Aviation Group 12 has assisted Stovall with Toys for Tots for three years. He's excited about his fourth year serving as general coordinator for the program.

Large donation boxes will be at various commands throughout the air station until Christmas, Bailey said.

Last year Iwakuni Marines collected enough toy donations to cover the floor of a racquetball court next to the Hornets' Nest, Stovall recalled.

"It's really become a big thing here," Bailey said. "In past years, we've collected so many presents that we started giving each child from the Japanese orphanages two toys, instead of just one. We're hoping to do the same this year."

Toys for Tots is a worldwide U.S. Marine Corps Reserve program to collect new toys during October, November and December and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children.

"It's about helping others. When they come back from delivering the presents, you can see it in their faces." Stovall said. You can just see how their (Marines) self-esteem improves, making them much happier during the holidays

"And if they're happier, they work better, they get in less trouble, there's less drinking, less depression ... it's win-win all the way Call DSN 253-3585 for more informa-

on about the Iwakuni Thunder Run and Toys for Tots campaign.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstripes.osd.mil

CDC to help shoppers

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan - Saseho's Child Development Centers at the main base and Hario Housing Village are open at no cost from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 so adults can do some "secret" Christmas shopping

Make reservations now with the Child Development Center. Space is limited.

Registration deadlines are Wednesday, and then Dec. 8 and Dec. 15.

For Hario child care call DSN 252-8842 For main base child care, call DSN 252-2985

Sasebo Christmas

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan - Base and local residents are welcome to join Christmas In The Park festivities Friday in Nimitz Park

Santa Claus will be there to meet children and pose for free Polaroid photos

Planned activities include carnival games, air toys, arts and crafts, live stage entertainment, a bonfire and a parade. The event is from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Call DSN 252-3500 for more informa-

From staff reports

Santa's coming to Tinsel Town at Kadena Air Base on Friday

Douglas Avenue from

O'Connor Gum to the

Schillina

Community Center.

where Tinsel Town

is located.

By FRED ZIMMERMAN Stars and Stripes

Kadena Air Base's annual Tinsel Town holiday celebration is set to kick off this weekend with numerous events to entertain both young and old.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. Friday with a holiday parade on Dou-

glas Avenue from O'Connor Gym to the Schilling Community Center, where Tinsel Town is located. The parade will include floats and marchers from various groups and youth organizaaccording to Tracy Thomas, programs coordinator for Schilling Community Center.

The parade will last about a half-hour, ending with Santa Claus riding into Tinsel Town on a fire truck. The annual tree

lighting then will be held

The town area officially opens Friday with the parade and closes that night at 9 p.m., Thomas said. It opens again Saturday from 1 to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Attractions including carnival rides, moon bounces, laser tag and game booths will be on hand, Thomas said. Food booths also will be set up, as well as San ta's house, where children can whisper their Christmas wishes to St. Nick

In conjunction with Tinsel Town on Friday night, a family holiday craft workshop will be held in the community center's ballroom from 7 to 9 p.m. For those wanting to purchase crafts rather than make them, a craft fair is scheduled Saturday from 10 a m to 4 n m in the hallmom

Other weekend events include a talent

Saturday showcase beginning at 5 p.m., Festivities begin at 5 and a holiday dessert bake-off Sunday at 2 p.m. Friday with a holiday parade on

While Tinsel Town isn't officially open until Friday, one attraction is kicking off early and lasting one day longer. new-age twist to the Christmas classic Nutcracker will be held twice a day beginning Thursday and ending Monday. The Nutcracker

Cirque uses trapeze artists, jugglers and aerialists, among others, to tell the story.

Performances are: 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Thursday: 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday: Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:40 p.m.; and 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Monday. All shows will be in the big tent in the community center parking lot

Contact the Schilling Community Cen-ter at 634-1387 for more information on any of the events.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: rimmermanf@pstripes.osd.mil

4 U.S. troops killed in attacks; 1 dies in crash

Suicide bomber at checkpoint attack kills 7 Iraqis; Allawi eases curfew in Baghdad

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Sunday, at least 1,237 members of the U.S. military have died since the begin ning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slova kia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,099 U.S. military members have died according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier died Sunday in a traffic accident north of Baghdad

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reports

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

BAGHDAD - Two American soldiers were killed and three wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in northwestern Baghdad, the U.S. command said. The victims were members of the U.S. Army's Task Force Baghdad, which is in charge of security in the capital.

Two U.S. Marines were also killed in a weekend bombing south of the capital, a U.S. official said Monday. U.S., British and Iraqi forces have been sweeping through the area to clear Sunni insurgents from a string of towns and cities between Baghdad and the Shiite shrine cities of Naiaf and Karba-

Separately, the military said one U.S. soldier died and two were injured in a vehicle accident 30 miles northwest of the town of Kut in eastern Iraq.

Also Monday, a suicide bomber blew up a car Monday at a police checkpoint in western Iraq, killing seven government security force members and injuring nine in the latest strike against the country's fledgling police and National Guard troops, Iraqi officials said IIS

forces immediately sealed off the road after the insurgent attack against Iraqi security forces in Baghdadi, 120 miles northwest of the capital, police Lt. Mohammed al-Fehdawi said

A hospital official there, Hatim Ahmed, confirmed seven police and Iragi National Guard members were killed and nine were wounded.

In other developments, Iraqi authorities announced an easing of the curfew in Baghdad im-



Iragi National Guard members arrest suspected gas black marketeers in Baghdad on Monday.

posed this month in the run-up to the U.S. led offensive on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

Effective Tuesday, the curfew will begin at 11 p.m. and end at 5 a.m., a statement from Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office

Elsewhere, gunmen stormed a police station west of the city of Samarra late Sunday, a spokesman said. The attackers who faced no opposition, looted the armory and commandeered several police cars before leaving the

U.S. troops arrived at the station Monday morning and arrested two dozen people, the policeman said.

In Basra, British and Iraqi troops were deployed around the headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard southern regional headquarters after the chief staff. Brig. Gen. Diaa al-Kadhimi, refused to accept an order from Baghdad to remove himself

from his post, Iraqi officials said. Al-Kadhimi was to have been replaced by the national guard chief in Amarah, Salah al-Mali-ki. The standoff was continuing Monday afternoon

South of Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi forces launched raids Sunday that killed 17 suspected insurgents. Iraqi police said. The raids included a dawn speedboat assault by U.S. Marines and British and Iraqi troops on suspected insurgent hideouts along the Euphrates River, British media reported. The speedboat assault was the

biggest operation of its kind so far in Iraq, with 130 troops rac-ing up the Euphrates in boats armed with machine guns and grenade launchers, according to the British reports.

However, the raid produced only a few small weapons caches and documents believed buried by a Saddam Hussein loyalist, British media said.

U.S. Marines, Iraqi commandos and British troops launched an offensive known as "Operation Plymouth Rock" in the area last Tuesday as a follow-up to the assault on Fallujah.

The British Embassy on Monday banned its staff from traveling on the highway between Baghdad and the city's international airport due to a surge of attacks on the vital thoroughfare.

The travel warning issued by the British Foreign Office also urged Britons to defer even essential travel to Iraq due to deteriorating security. Previously, it advised against all but essential travel to Iraq.

Meanwhile, the governor of Iraq's Shiite-dominated Najaf province said Monday that police had arrested his own security chief after uncovering an alleged plot to assassinate top regional officials -- including the governor himself.

The aide, Ali al-Sheibani, was detained late Sunday, Adnan al-Zurufi told reporters.

In new video, bin Laden deputy vows to continue fighting U.S.

BY SALAH NASRAWI The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt - Osama bin Laden's top deputy, Ayman Al-Zawahri, said in a videotape aired Monday - but apparently taped before the U.S. presidential election - that there was no difference between the two candidates. He also vowed to keep fighting

the United States until Washington changed its policies

In a brief excerpt broadcast on Al-Jazeera television, al-Zawahri said: "As for elections in America, the two candidates are competing to win the satisfaction of Israel," saying that fact proved "there will be no solution with America without forcing it to surrender to jus-

tice '

In the tape, al-Zawahri said: "The results of the elections do not matter for us. Vote whoever you want, Bush, Kerry or the devil himself. This does not concern us. What concerns us is to purge our land from the aggressors.

Days before the election, bin Laden said in similar video footage that the United States must stop threatening the security of Muslims if it wants to avoid "another Manhattan" - referring to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Addressing the American people, bin Laden also said, "Your security is not in the hands of Kerry, Bush or al-Qaida. Your security is in your own hands. ... Any state that does not mess with our security has naturally guaranteed its own security.

It was unclear if Al-Jazeera planned to show more of the latest al-Zawahri tape. In the segment broadcast, al-Zawahri also offered

the American people what he called "one last advice," adding, "I am sure that they will not heed it."

"You have to choose between one of two methods to deal with Muslims: either on mutual respect and exchange of interests, or to deal with them as if they are spoils of war," al-Zawahri said.

The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for the capture of bin Laden and al-Zawahri, who are believed to be hiding in the border area of Afghanistan and Pakistan

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Flu vaccine plagued by delivery problems

Officials say all troops in Iraq will be immunized; medics in Tikrit ask where the doses are



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER Stars and Stripes

Above: Pfc. Barnaby Johnson, 23, a medic at Forward Operating Base Wilson near Ad Dawr, Iraq, gives a flu shot to Spc. Claude Weathers, 22, of the 1st Squadron. 4th Cavalry Regiment. Johnson said his base has plenty of flu vaccine for the soldiers there. 1st Infantry Division officials said front-line troops get highest priority for the scarce

Right: This sign on the door of the 67th Combat Support Hospital at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, warns soldiers the CSH is out of flu vaccine



DAIEI Mall

end of that block facing Rt 16

* Use side-street door after 4pm

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — The shortage of flu vaccine plaguing the United States and Europe is also causing trouble for some

troops in north-central Iraq. Doctors at the 67th Combat Sup port Hospital in Tikrit and one of its support units, the 429th Medical Evacuation Battalion, say they have far less than the amount of

vaccine they need. A sign on the door of the hospital tent at FOB Spe-

no more flu shots until further notice. "There is a mad scramble for vac cine," said Lt. Col. Bobby Jones, the

icher warns na-

tients there will be

hospital's deputy commander clinical services. "It's not plentiful. Not everyone has gotten it." Maj. James

Stein, chief of preventative medicine for the 1st Infantry Division is less worried about his line troops. He

said that 61 percent of the division's soldiers have received their shots, and he expects everyone will be immunized by Dec. 15. "The troops in the theater obvi-

ously have priority." Stein said. "We're going to have enough, but the supply's a little thin."

Capt. Sharon Parker, a family nurse practitioner who is the 67th CSH's immunization coordinator. isn't sure her troops will fare as well. She said she requested 4,000 doses of flu vaccine, enough to cover 2,700 medical personnel plus some spare. The unit has been given 1,000 doses and isn't currently expecting to receive

But medical officials in Baghdad said Monday the shots are on

Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall

"...where the SPIRIT of the LORD is, there is LIBERTY. the way. Lt. Col. Marc Caouette, Multi-

everuone has

gotten it.

Lt. Col. Bobby Jones

clinical services at the 67th

Combat Support Hospital in

Deputy commander for

Tikrit, Iraq

National Corps-Iraq pharmacy consultant in Baghdad, said there is no shortage of vaccine for troops. He called the situation in Tikrit, "an isolated incident.

The 67th CSH wasn't supposed to give flu shots to everyone on base. Caouette said in a telephone interview from Baghdad on Monday. Another unit has been given the mission of giving shots to troops in that region, but that unit hasn't been able to get to there vet, he said.

"We have [the vaccinel." said, "but they 44 There is a mad didn't tell us that scramble for they were out. We actually shipped vaccine. It's not them 100 vials plentiful, Not Military bases

can be incubators for disease. Some of the first cases of the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic that killed millions of people around the world cropped up at U.S. Army posts where soldiers

were training to fight in World "It'll just burn through a mili-

tary camp." Parker said. Col. Edwin Moore, commander

of the 429th Medical Evacuation Battalion - a Georgia-based Army Reserve unit operating at Speicher — is frustrated over the shortage.

"We were told [the vaccine] was ordered and everything was fine, but it wasn't," Moore said. "We do not have enough. We've been ordered to get 100 percent [of the unit's soldiers vaccinated], and we will. But we don't know

Caquette said the military has enough vaccine in Iraq to inoculate all troops. He estimated that 75 percent of the troops have received the shot, and everyone should be inoculated by the end of next week.

So far, there have been no cases of flu reported in Iraq. Caouette said. But it's crucial that everyone get the shot, even though the military doesn't not fall into the high-risk category.

"We're not considered high-risk." he said. "but it's a national defense risk if a unit comes down with the flu.'

Sam Amrhein contributed to this report.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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"Christmas at Home

At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left

1st ID breaks ground on new HQ in Iraq

Unit to move from Saddam's palace in Tikrit to \$6.7 million facility south of Camp Speicher

BY STEVE LIEWER Stars and Strines

TIKRIT, Iraq - The 1st Infantry Division has broken ground on a new headquarters building that soon should allow the Army to abandon Saddam Hussein's mag nificent and grotesque palace complex in

The \$6.7 million, 60,000-square-foot building is being built south of Tikrit at Forward Operating Base Speicher, a sprawling former Iraqi air force base. It is expected to open in April, said Lt. Col. Keith Sledd, the division's logistics officer, short-



The ornately covered back side of the palace overlooks the Tigris River.

ly after the division turns over control of its sector of Iraq to the 42nd Infantry Divi-

The building will be home to the task force commander — currently, Maj. Gen. John Batiste — and his staff. Batiste's 22,000-soldier Task Force Danger patrols an area the size of West Virginia that is north and east of Baghdad, from 27 forward operating bases

Lt. Col. John M. Larson, design engineer of the Wisconsin National Guard's 264th Engineer Battalion, which is supervising the project, said those bases will be returned to Iraqi control over time. The soldiers at those bases would move to Speicher, which is being planned as a longer-term home for troops in the region.

Currently about 6,000 officers and soldiers live at Speicher, Larson said. About 2,000 live at the division headquarters

To accommodate future troops, Larson said, the division has requested another \$80 million from the Multi-National Coalition-Iraq military command in Baghdad That money would build headquarters buildings, soldier barracks, communications and maintenance buildings for each of the task force's battalions. It's not clear yet if that money will be granted.

"Getting out of a place is not cheap," Larson said.

The current headquarters, which 1st ID calls Forward Operating Base Danger, is in Saddam's hometown complex of some 40 extravagant palaces overlooking the Ti-

The complex includes about 1.3 million square feet of floor space in impressive pink-marble palaces — far more than the task force needs. Saddam built the palaces in the 1990s.

The buildings look impressive but aren't terribly useful. Much of the space is wast-



Saddam Hussein's former showpiece palace in Tikrit is now the headquarters of the U.S. Army's Task Force Danger. The 1st Infantry Division has begun building a new \$6.7 million headquarters at nearby Forward Operating Base Speicher so the palace complex can be turned over to the Iraqi government.

ed on giant atriums and hallways. Viewed up close, the woodwork is cheap and the workmanship poor. The plumbing system is so bad that the gold-fixtured toilets can't

"[Saddam] built things just to build them," said Larson, 53, of Superior, Wis., whose civilian job is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "They weren't functional at all, and they were poorly constructed. But what a facade! From a distance, they look pretty nice.

Current and former members of Batiste's staff say the general never wanted to move into the palace complex, in part because of the discomfort over the U.S. occupying forces living in the lavish homes of the former dictator. But higher headquarters blocked any

move until now, the staffers said. Despite the symbolism, the palaces worked well as military headquarters because the walled compound is quite secure and the marble buildings well-fortified against the rockets and mortars that sometimes are aimed at it.

Sledd, 43, of Hickory, Okla., said the Tikrit palaces eventually will be turned over to the government of Salah Ad Din province, which is headquartered in Tikrit. Government officials toured the palaces for the first time in August.

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Some groups struggle to send care packages to troops By DARRYL ENRIQUEZ

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE - As kindhearted and patriotic supporters of U.S. troops are learning, generosity has its price. The cost is about a buck a pound.

Business firms, hospitals, schools and nolice are among those who have experienced the sticker shock of sending packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And, as in any mission, those who plan ahead tend to suffer the fewest casualties.

Campaigns that have worked hard for cash donations to ship the gathered goods are reaching their goals, while others that lack money have become bogged down, with donated supplies sitting in storage

Dennis Mehring, public information of-ficer for the 440th Airlift Wing in Milwaukee, said he gets at least two calls daily from groups that have collected goods and want to know if the unit's cargo planes can haul their packages to the troops for free.

The Airlift Wing transports troops and supplies to bases throughout the world, including the Arabian war zones

"There's not a lot we can do for them." he said. "Federal law does not allow us to take these goods overseas. It's considered unfair competition with civilian carriers. And we simply don't have the room in our



Randy Radish sifts through boxes of food and personal items that will be shipped to Waukesha-based troops deployed overseas. He has gathered nearly 500 pounds of items and is hoping to get financial donations for shipping costs.

Waukesha Alderman

One effort that's managed to stay on ton of its shipping costs is Marshall Towne Millwork of Brookfield, Wis., a maker of kitchen, bathroom and storage cabinets

"If you're going to do a big drive, you'd better get cooperation from local business-es to handle shipping costs," said Victor Aiello, the firm's area sales manager "There's a lot of support in the communities for troops, and when word gets out about a drive, people are giving.

'However, the postage is significant about a buck a pound. If organizers on the front end ask for cash for shipping, I'm confident there'd be a willing response," he

Aiello said the firm has already shipped thousands of pounds for goods to the war zones and recently participated in a large drive for postage.

Marshall Towne also helped Burlington

High School in Racine County Wis with the expense of shipping donations to the war zones.

One effort in need of shipping help is the Treats for Troops Campaign organized by Waukesha, Wis., Alderman Randy Radish. During the past few weeks, the campaign has collected nearly 500 pounds of food, toiletries, medicine and clothing from the three barrels it has out, but donors have given only \$50 for shipping.

"It's become a concern about raising enough money to send this stuff," he said. Radish and helpers intend to ask those attending the Waukesha Christmas Parade for money and additional goods. The packages would go to the two Waukesha-based units now in the Middle East.

"I have no idea what to expect the day of the parade, but I'll take whatever we can get," he said.

The Brookfield Police Department has periodically shipped packages to overseas troops this year, and it tries to be cautious in the amount it collects to prevent the packages from outpacing the money it has for shipping.

Shipping is costly, but we're fortunate that we have veterans groups and business and city employees giving what they can," police Capt. Phil Horter said.

IN THE WORLD

China, Southeast Asian nations OK trade pact



Seated from left: President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines, Prime Ministers Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore and Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand are aided by traditionally dressed Laotians at a Monday signing ceremony at the ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos,

BY WILLIAM FOREMAN The Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos - China moved Monday to expand its influence in a region long dominated by the United States, signing an accord with Southeast Asian nations aimed at creating the world's largest free trade area by 2010 - a sprawling market of nearly 2 billion people.

China's concerns about securing vital sea lanes and feeding its booming economy's ravenous appetite for oil and raw materials were seen as key motivations for the trade pact with the 10-pation Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the group's annual summit in Laos

But some analysts believe the agreement shows how an increasingly hold China is forging new alliances that would reduce, and possibly eventually challenge, America's influence in Asia.

"China is using its huge market as a bait to lure ASEAN countries

away from U.S. and Japan and build closer relations," Chien-min, a China watcher and political science professor at Tai-wan's National Chengchi Univer-

"I think what Beijing has in mind is to forge good economic and trade relations now and then increase exchanges in other areas, particularly in the military and security arena," Chao said.
The agreements signed Mon-

day removed tariffs on goods and created a mechanism to resolve ASEAN-China trade disputes. The accord aims to end all tariffs by 2010, drawing ASEAN's combined economies worth \$1 trillion — closer to China's \$1.4 trillion economy.

Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN's secretary-general, said trade with China would speed up with the free trade agreement. "So by the free trade agreement. time this whole FTA (free trade agreement) is done, as we want to by 2010, it should become quite substantial: \$130 or \$140 billion, perhaps," he told reporters. In comparison, the annual ASEAN-U.S. trade is \$120 billion and ASEAN-EU trade is \$110 billion per year, he said. Ong said it would be a long time before China surpassed the United States because the Americans are

bigger investors in the region. China's deal with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was sealed as the 10-nation group agreed to another pact that would build an ASEAN community, much like the European Union,

On the summit sidelines, South Korea and ASEAN member Singapore concluded negotiations on a two-way free trade agreement. Japan and ASEAN member Philippines also agreed on major parts of a proposed accord — but officials from both sides said it would take six months to wrap it up. With a long row of Laotian womer in long silk skirts standing behind him, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao witnessed the signing of the ASEAN-China accord along with Southeast Asian leaders.



U.N. approves deal with Iran on uranium freeze

BY GEORGE JAHN The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - The U.N. nuclear agency agreed Monday on ways to police Iran's suspension of some nuclear programs, but a U.S. official, branding Tehran a threat to world peace, said Washington might take the case to the Security Council.

In arguing for such a move, U.S. chief delegate Jackie Sanders listed more than a dozen open questions about Iran's nuclear intentions still before the agency despite a nearly two-year investigation of almost two decades of covert activities

"This makes it clear that the IAEA cannot ... offer the neces-sary assurances that Iran is not attempting to produce nuclear material for weapons," she told the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency

She spoke shortly after the hoard passed a resolution authorizing IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei to monitor Iran's commitment to freeze uranium enrichment activities that can produce either low-grade nuclear fuel or the raw material for atomic weap-

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The issue of suspension had
dominated the meeting since the
opening day on Thursday. Iran in
sisted on exempting some equip
ment, a demand that forced the
meeting to reconvene on Monday
after a weekend adjournment.

France, Germany and Britain, who negotiated a Nov. 7 agreement with Iran on suspension. came to the meeting saying the deal meant that all equipment used for enrichment must come to a standstill.

Iran had demanded that it be allowed to run 20 centrifuges for research nurnoses.

Seeking to avoid tough measures by the board that could have led to referral to the Security Council and possible sanctions. Iran appeared to give up its demands Sunday, delivering a letter to the agency pledging "not to conduct any testing with these sets of components."

ElBaradei, the IAEA head, urged Iran to keep suspension in place as long as possible. That, he said, was needed "to mitigate the confidence deficit" in Iran. its record of past clandestine activities and continued reluctance to fully cooperate with an agency probe of its nuclear agenda.

The proposed deal also commits Iran to a pledge not to reprocess plutonium - which it would be able to do in several years time, once it completes work on a heavy water reactor in the city of Arak.

With the EU deal envisaging a light-water reactor for Iran from which extraction of weap ons-grade nuclear material is difficult - diplomats said the Europeans hoped Iran would not complete its heavy-water facility.

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Representatives of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko view documents Monday in Kiev as Ukraine's Supreme Court began discussing the validity of the results of last week's runoff election

Ukraine's Supreme Court hears appeal on election

Ruling could pave way for opposition demand of new vote

BY NATASHA LISOVA The Associated Press

KIEV. Ukraine - Ukraine's Supreme Court discussed the validity of the presidential election results Monday, while an eastern province scheduled a referendum on autonomy and the opposition threatened to further paralyze the government through a blockade.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma said "we cannot in any instance allow the disintegration or division of Ukraine," the Interfax news agency reported. Fears of a split rose after Ukraine's giant industrial base, the eastern Donetsk region, scheduled a referendum on autonomy for Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting of east-Ukraine officials, Kuchma said he believed neither opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko nor Prime Minister Viktor Yanuk ovych "wants to be president of one part of Ukraine.

The Supreme Court was considering an appeal by Yushchenko against official results of the Nov. 21 presidential runoff, which declared Yanukovych the winner. Yushchenko claims he was

robbed of victory. Under Ukrainian legislation, the court cannot rule on the overall results but can declare results invalid in individual precincts. Mykola Katerinchuk, a Yushchenko aide, said the appeal focused on results in eight eastern and southern Ukrainian regions more than 15 million votes almost half of the total cast in the runoff.

The opposition claimed "severe violations of Ukrainian legislation" and asked the court to annul the results, he said. It is also asking the court to name Yushchenko the winner because he narrowly won the election's first round on

Justice Anatoliy Yarema said the court would give Yanukovy-ch's lawyers until 10 a.m. Tuesday to study the additional evidence presented by Yushchenko's

Stepan Havrysh, a key aide of Yanukovych, said his side was ex-pecting a "fair decision ... taken without emotion

"I expect that the judges will not overstep the law because it could end in a civil war," he said.

The ruling could pave the way for a new vote, which the opposi tion is demanding, or remove the only barrier to the inauguration of Yanukovych, who has the backing of Kuchma and the Kremlin which still yields significant political and economic influence over energy-dependent Yanukovych was declared the winner with a margin of 871,402

Yanukovych said he would sup-port a revote if allegations of fraud in the election are proven but he said he had vet to see such

"If there is evidence of falsification, I will agree with" a decision to hold a new vote, he said, adding that he would call on residents of his giant support base in eastern Ukraine to participate. But Yanuk ovych warned that evidence of fraud must be proved first through a "clear, honest and transparent" investigation, and suggested that such a revote would be ille-

While the Supreme Court's decision is likely to boost the legitimacy of whichever side it seems to favor, it could also fuel anger in the other camp. Thousands of pro-Yushchenko and pro-Yanukovych supporters massed outside the court at the start of the ses sion, but by midafternoon, most pro-Yanukovych supporters had left.Yushchenko rejected govern ment appeals Sunday to call off tens of thousands of protesters and urged his backers to maintain their weeklong, round-the-clock vigil and blockades of the Cabinet building and the presidential ad-

ministration. His supporters refused to let anyone but security personnel enter the buildings, and some Cabinet ministers have complained the blockades are impeding the

Spain's ex-premier defends government's response to bombing

BY ED MCCULLOUGH The Associated Press

MADRID. Spain -_ Former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar defended his government's response to the Madrid train bombings in testimony Monday before skentical lawmakers investigate ing the attack.
"I have been accused of being

eager to blame the massacre on the terrorist gang ETA. If this were the case, one must admit that others beat me to it," Aznar

local government of The Spain's northern Basque region had also immediately blamed ETA and so had officials of the Socialist Party - then in opposition and now in government.

The toll in Spain's worst terror-

ist attack was 191 dead and more than 1,800 injured

Aznar was called to testify by center-left parties that allege his conservative Popular Party underestimated the threat of Islamic terrorism, and misled Spaniards by continuing to blame the



ratist group ETA for the March commuter train bombings even after strong evidence subsequent-

of an Islamic link

emerged. Critics say the government's primary concern in insisting on the ETA angle was to salvage national elections three days later, amid fears that Islamic involvement in the attacks would be seen as revenge for Aznar's support of the Iraq war in the face of vehe-

ment opposition at home. Aznar did not back down when he was grilled repeatedly as to why officials of his Popular Party did not publicly rule out ETA involvement before the March 14 elections on the basis of evidence pointing to Islamic involvement.

Report links Sept. 11, train attacks

MADRID, Spain - An unidentified Muslim militant suspected of helping plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States also ordered this year's Madrid train bombings, a Spanish newspaper said Sunday, asserting the closest link yet between the two terrorist at-

The man is believed to be a lieutenant of Mustafa Setmariam, a fugitive with dual Syrian and Spanish nationality who is considered a key figure in the March 11 backpack bombings that targeted the Madrid commuter rail network, the newspaper ABC said, citing information from the FBI

Last week, the United States announced a \$5 million reward for information leading to Setmariam's arrest.

The Madrid attack killed 191 people and was claimed in videotapes by militants saying they acted on behalf of al-Qaida in revenge for Spain's sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Swiss voters OK stem cell research

BY A.G. HIGGINS

GENEVA — Swiss voters overwhelmingly approved a law allowing stem cell research Sunday, rejecting a hard-line campaign that compared researchers to the Nazi "angel of death," Dr. Josef Mengele.

Some 66.4 percent of those polled — or 1.1 million voters — approved the law passed by the government last December. The law will take effect in March.

Opponents had called the referendum to try to overturn the legislation, even though it sets stricter limitations on research than exist elsewhere in Europe. The Swiss bill allows the use only of embryonic stem cells left over from in-vitro fertilization.

The government said the law will permit Switzerland — which has major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies — to take part in vital research.

The government said the law strictly prohibits human cloning or the creation of embryos for stem cell research and stressed the restrictions on the research, which include a requirement for the written consent of the parents and the approval of an ethics committee and the Swiss Health Ministry for each research project.

try for each research project. European nations that permit stem cell research include Sweden, Finland, Greece and the Netherlands. Britain allows the creation of human embryos for stem cell procurement.



Workers clean up scattered dishes in the kitchen of their restaurant Monday after a powerful earthquake in Kushiro, Japan. The earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1, struck Japan's northern island of Hokkaido early Monday, swaying buildings, throwing objects off shelves and triggering a small sunami wave that reached shore.

Temblor rattles northern Japan

24 injured by 7.1 magnitude quake

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Strings

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Residents here shuffled into work a bit groggy Monday after many were jolted awake by an early-morning earthquake that injured 24 on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido and trigered a tidal wave warning. The mamitude-7.1 earthquake

The magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck at 3:32 a.m. beneath the sea off Hokkaido's eastern coast and was felt as far south as Yokohama, near Tokyo, according to local news reports.

The temblor measured an intensity of 3 in Aomori Prefecture, to include Misawa, officials with Aomori Meteorological Observatory

No injuries or damage were reported on Misawa Air Base or in Misawa city, both city and military officials reported Monday.

The quake was one of the strongest felt at Misawa in over a year:
On Sept. 25, 2003, an 8.3-magnitude tremor off the eastern coast of Hokkaido rocked northern Japan, injuring more than 700

and killing at least one person. For some tower residents at Misawa, Monday morning's earthquake felt like "a sideways roller-coaster," said 1st Lt. Dan Schwendeman, deputy chief of manpower for 35th Fighter Wing who lives on the sixth floor of a north area tower.

"Once it starts rocking, it really rocks up there," Schwendeman said.

The temblor woke up his family — and his fish. "It was swaying so much, it knocked the water out of my fish tank," Schwendeman

At least seven aftershocks occurred after the first tremor, according to Kyodo News. About 13,000 households on Hokkaido were advised to temporarily exacuate. The injured included an 80-year-old woman who fell and broke her arm and a 13-year-old boy who was hit by falling objects, reported Kyodo News on Monday.

No tidal waves occurred, according to Aomori Meteorological

Observatory.
As of late Monday, 24 people had reported injuries, almost all minor, said Kimikazu Takabayashi, Hokkaido prefectural government spokesman.

Several people, mostly elderly, had suffered minor injuries such cuts from falling objects or broken glass, Hokkaido prefectural police spokesman Tsuneo Sasaki

In Kushiro, a 57-year-old woman suffered a foot injury after stepping on broken glass, police said.

More than 1,500 homes in Hokkaido briefly lost power, said Hokkaido Electric Power Co. spokesman Junichiro Kato. Natural gas services to many homes were also cut but were quickly restored. Railway services on several.

lines in Hokkaido were suspended for a short time, according to NHK.

NHK.
Chiyomi Sumida and The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Press contributed to this story.

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Pakistan tests nuclear-capable missile

BY MUNIR AHMAD The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan successfully test-fired a new version of its short-range, nuclear-capable missile Monday, officials said, in the latest round of tit-for-tat launches with neighboring India despite recent peace overtures.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan insisted the test of the Ghazanvi missile will have no negative impact on the peace process with Pakistan's rival, India, which had no immediate comment on the launch.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters that foreign secretaries of both countries will meet in Islamabad on Dec. 23-24 to discuss all issues, including the disputed region of Kashmir, a constant source of irritation in bilateral relations.

The military said Pakistan's neighbors, including India, were notified of the test in advance. India and Pakistan routinely test missiles.

"We have test-fired this missile to check its latest design," Sultan told The Associated Press.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz congratulated scientists for giving Pakistan the missile and "making its defense impregnable," another military official said on the condition of anonymity. He said more such tests will be carried

out in the coming days.

Prime Minister Sheukat Ariz claimed

that instead of heightening tension in the region, the tests provide Pakistan with a credible deterrent to all-out war.

"This strategic capability is the anchor of peace and assurance of our stability and security," Ariz said.

The military issued a statement saying the Ghazanvi has already been added to the army's "strategic command," and that "Pakistan's nuclear and missile program will maintain the pace of development, and tests will continue to be conducted as per technical needs."

It was the third test of the Ghazanvi.

nt was the third test of the Ghazanty, which reportedly has a range of 180 miles. India has said technology for the missile was given to Islamabad by China or North Korea in the 1990s. Just six weeks ago, Pakistan tested its

Just six weeks ago, Pakistan tested its Ghauri V missile, which has a range of 930 miles, making it capable of hitting many Indian cities. Officials at that time said the test was not intended as a message to New Delhi

India on Friday test-fired a surface-to-air short-range missile on the coast of eastern Orissa state.

Russia tests ABM

MOSCOW—Russia on Mondernized anti-ballistic missile system, the military said, in what an analyst called a sign that the country was trying to answer the United States' withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The test-firing of the missile, which can intercept and destroy other missiles, was aimed at certifying it for further use, said a Space Troops spokesman who declined to give his name.

He said the missile's technical performance was flawless during the launch that took place at 11 a.m. Moscow time at the Sary-Shagan testing range in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhsta.

The Interfax news agency said Monday that the missile was an A-135, which the Russian military has been armed with since the early 1950s.

Mouse caught robbing register

VILLACH, Austria — Someone was stealing cash from a shop, but thanks to a videocamera, authorities got their man — and it was a mouse.

A security camera set up inside the shop in Villach in the southwestern Austrian province of Carinthia helped the owner figure out who was making off with bank notes from the cash register. It turned out to be a mouse looking for nesting material officials said Monday.

Myanmar activist detention extended

YANGON, Myanmar — Detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been told she will remain under house arrest for another year, a spokesman for her National League for Democracy party said Monday. NLD spokesman and party secretary U Lwin did

NLD spokesman and party secretary U Lwm did not give further details of the order or how he learned of it. Suu Kyi's telephone has been disconnected, and party leaders have not been allowed to visit her since May.

Hopes dim for 141 missing miners

BELJING — Hopes were dim Monday for 141 coal miners missing after an explosion in a Chinese mine as toxic fumes delayed rescuers trying to enter the pit more than a day after the disaster. Some 25 miners were already conf

Some 25 miners were aiready confirmed dead in Sunday's blast in the Chenjiashan Coal Mine in Shaanxi. If none of the missing survives, it would be one of the deadliest disasters in a decade to hit China's accident-prone mining industry.

From wire reports

Fort Benning gears up for more troops

BY ELLIOTT MINOI The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. — With Fort Benning preparing for its largest troop expansion since the Vietnam War, barber Anthony Brock figures he'll be giving a lot more GI haircuts, or at least he'll have

figures he'll be giving a lot more GI haircuts, or at least he'll have a steady stream of customers even when major units deploy for combat.

Nearly 6,000 new soldiers are set to move to the western Georgia Army post, which is already a major training center for recruits, airborne troops, infantry soldiers, officers and reservists preparing for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thousands more may come when the United States starts closing European bases and brings home 60,000 soldiers and families, officials say.

Fort Benning is already home to the 4,000-member 3rd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, which helped lead the charge into Iraq in 2003 and will return to the war zone in a couple of months.

Now the fort is slated to get a new group of 3,800 light-infantry soldiers who will be members of the 5th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Another 1,690 soldiers will be added to handle the post's additional training responsibilities and to expand existing units.

Joining the new soldiers will be an estimated 3,686 spouses and 6,634 children. Many of the families will live off-post.

Builders already are responding with new apartment and condo projects, and three more schools may be built to accommodate an estimated 5,000 new students, officials say.

Brock, who plies scissors at Ranger Joe's Barber Shop, hopes the new troops will cushion the impact of future deployments.

"When the 3rd Brigade left, it cut my paycheck in half," Brock said.

"You won't feel the effect ... as bad with more people here."

The influx of about 16,000 new residents over the next few years will create at least 7,000 additional jobs and make a tremendous economic impact on surrounding

counties in Alabama and Georgia, said Mike Gaymon, president and CEO of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce. "This is the equivalent of three or four Toyota plants," he said.

"The ... impact is gigantic."
Fort Benning already has an annual \$1.9 billion impact on the area and that could climb to an estimated \$2.5 billion by 2006, the chamber has said.

"We are jumping up for joy," said Bill Heard III, president of Bill Heard Chevrolet, which sells about 40 percent of the cars at its Columbus dealership to soldiers.

During the Vietnam War, Fort Benning's soldier population increased from 25,000 to 45,000 with the addition of a division.

The latest expansion will increase the number of soldiers there to 20,000, not counting the growing number who come temporarily for training.

Fort Benning is expected to train 80,000 soldiers next year, 10,000 more than this year.

Fort Benning's growth is the result of the transformation of the Army into smaller, more rapidly deployable units.



Barber Anthony Brock trims the hair of 2nd Lt. James Barclay, 22, of Scottsboro, Ala., on Wednesday near Fort Benning, Ga., which is preparing for its largest troop expansion since the Vietnam War.

Iraq war forces basic training to take a grueling turn

BY FAYE FIORE Los Angeles Times

FT. BENNING, Ga. — The soldiers from Echo Company sit in a noisy chow hall, tired but on the brink of a milestone. In two days, they will complete basic training as grueting as the Army has ever dished out. And in a matter of weeks, many of them will be on the ground in Iraq.

"My wife said, "Don't join the infantry," and I promised her I wouldn't," said Army Spc. Jonathan Hernandez, 29, a former history teacher from Niceville, Fla. "Now I realize it doesn't matter. The enemy doesn't care if they are firing at a financial specialist or somebody in the infantry."

Today's casualty lists are riddled with cooks, mechanics, mail clerks — all theoretically noncombat jobs. But yesterday's boot camp did not prepare soldiers for the cities and deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq, where the theater of battle is all around.

As a result, combat training is undergoing its most dramatic overhaul since Vietnam. And as the war in Iraq forces America's military to change, the storied rigors of boot camp have become ever more rigorous.

"Whenever you go into a combat environment, there are going to be challenges you didn't foresee," said Col. William J. Gallagher, commander of the Basic Combat Training Brigade at Ft. Benning.

But as a downsized, undersupplied force strains to fight a stubborn insurgency, it does not have the luxury of time. The Army finds itself with much more to teach its combat-bound recruits, and the same 63 basic training days to teach it.

So today's new soldier averages five hours of sleep a night instead of seven. The day still begins at dawn and lasts past dinner, but core training pushes further into the night, eating into time once used for review and reinforcement of the day's lessons. Sundays, once set aside for worship, laundry and phone calls home, are no longer guaranteed "light."

The March 2003 ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company from Ft. Bliss, Texas, was a wake-up call for American armed forces. Eleven combat-support sol-



LATWP

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion 54th Infantry Regiment wait for their scores after a live-fire qualifying exercise, when they earn the "covers" for their Kevlar helmuts, a basic training rite of passage.

diers were killed and six more captured including Pvt. Jessica Lynch — lending urgency to the need to train every volunteer

After the S07th ambush, a task force spent a year brainstorming ways to avoid another such catastrophe. The members came up with a set of new tasks and battle drills considered essential for survival, and suggested adding an extra three weeks of training to teach them. But each any of added training mentar a decline in the number of soldiers available for comband to find the survival of the surv

Instructors prioritized. The traditional marching competition was dropped, and protocol lessons were shortened. Standard courses were made more relevant to to-

day's war. Basic radio communications now includes ways the enemy uses cellphones to detonate bombs.

Gallagher believes instructors have struck a balance, maximizing every available moment without stressing soldiers to a point of diminished returns.

For the recruits, it wasn't exactly what they expected. The plan for many had been to learn an Army trade, to make an important contribution and still keep a safe distance from enemy lines. Instead, before they knew it, they were learning to avoid landmines, survive an ambush and spot roadside bombs disguised as cans of Coke.

Many of the thousands of new recruits who file into Ft. Benning every year are as young as 17 or as old as 35. Some of them are still fighting acne, others middle-aged paunches. But they all are presented with the same stark odds: Half will deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan as soon as 30 days after completing initial training. The rest can expect to go sometime during their first enlistment.

The infantry soldiers — those who specialize in combat — complete their course in 14 weeks. The combat-support troops train for nine weeks before learning a specific job. But under the Army's new philosophy, they all must be warriors first.

opiny, new arminos to warmors must han many soldiers expected, but not more than they could manage. Sitting in the chow hall over trays of today's Army fare several Echo Company soldiers talked about the likelihood of going to Iraq. Some were eager to take their skills to war, others resigned to the fact they might have to. But all could their fact they might have to. But all could their fact they might have to. But

all said they felt prepared.

Derek Gonzales, 18, who graduated in June from Tipton High School in Missouri, grew up in the little town of Syracuse, and joined the Army in part because his father thought it would be good for him. Gonzales didn't figure on actually landing in Iraq when he enlisted, but he is resigned to the possibility.

"I'll do this because it's my duty that I have to serve the country and everything, but," he stopped without finishing the thought.

The cars began to file through the gate at 8 a.m. for Family Day, a pregraduation ritual held to hand out awards of excellence and give soldiers their first free day in weeks

Parents and spouses mingled outside, waiting for Echo Company to arrive. The Army has made it clear that these new soldiers will go to Iraq and fight this war. But the message does not seem to have registered bevond the boundaries of the base.

The chant of cadence rose in the distance, growing to a thunder as the new soldiers marched in. The slumped posture and undisciplined gazes of nine weeks ago had yielded to straight backs and eyes

They donned their black berets for the first time, then fell out, into the arms of teary mothers and anxious wives.

Jordan sibling wants full Iraq deployment

FAYETTEVILLE, Army Command Sgt. Maj. James

R. Jordan has much in common with his younger brother, retired basketball star Michael Jordan. He loves his job, believes in helping his team and expects maximum effort from those around

And like his brother, James Jordan likes to leave on his own terms. He has asked to stay in the

Army for a year be 44 I'm going to continue ... yond his mandatountil the day I feel like I rv retire need to hang it up, not ment date so he can when they feel like I need complete a full yearlong de ployment Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jordan

Iraq with about 500 other members of the 35th Signal Brigade

to hang it up. 77

"We are currently at war," Jordan said before the unit started shipping out Sunday. doing things, and it requires leaders to do certain things. That's what I am, a leader,

Under normal conditions, the 47-year-old Jordan would wind down his Army career in the spring as he approached the 30-year mark, but he has no intention of getting on an airplane

April 29 and coming home

"That's not the way you want to end a 30-year career," Jordan

told The Fayetteville Observer "People ask 'Why?' " said Col. Bryan Ellis, the brigade com-mander. "The answer is, he is completely selfless. We all want

to see it go well." Jordan is a no-nonsense noncommissioned officer with a shaved head and a wry sense of humor. He stands 5-foot-7, while

his younger brothabout 6-foot-6 As the senior en-

listed soldier the brigade of 2,450 soldiers, he

has kept a low profile at Fort Bragg and avoided calling attention to his family connection. "If you don't believe in selfless

service, you are not going to make it in this business," said Jordan, the oldest person in the bri-

He was 36, wearing the stripes of a first sergeant, when he went to airborne school, where most soldiers are in their teens or early 20s. He still runs eight



and Sgt. Mai. James R. Jordan, older brother of retired basketball star Michael Jordan, speaks Monday at Fort Bragg, N.C., about the 35th Signal Brigade's imminent deployment to Iraq.

miles and expects soldiers to be alongside him

Three years of Junior ROTC during high school in Wilmington, N.C., helped convince Jordan that the Army was for him.

"I figured I wanted to be a soldier, plus I was the oldest of five kids," he said. "I wanted to get out of the house and do something myself." He said some of his relatives

don't really know what he does. "They know I'm in the Army.

That's about it." he said. "My immediate family and my wife, my kids, not extremely happy, but

'Daddy, do what you've got to do.' " "I've been doing this by myself for so long, being my own person, being my own soldier,' he said. "I'm going to continue doing it the same way until the day I feel like I need to hang it up, not when they feel like I need to hang it up.



High court won't hear gay marriage case

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Monday side stepped a dispute over gay marriages, rejecting a challenge to the nation's only law sanctioning such unions.

Justices had been asked by conservative groups to over-turn the year-old decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalizing gay marriage. They declined, without comment

In the past year, at least 3,000 gay Massachusetts couples have wed, although voters may have a chance in 2006 to change the state constitution to permit civil union benefits for same-sex couples, but not the institution of mar-

Critics of the November 2003 ruling by the highest court in Massachusetts argue that it violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of a republican form of government in each state. They lost at the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

Their attorney, Mathew Staver, said in a Supreme Court filing that the Constitution should "protect the citizens of Massachusetts from their own state supreme court's usurpation of power

Federal courts, he said, should defend people's right "to live in a republican form of government free from tyranny, whether that comes at the barrel of a gun or by the de-

Merita Honkins a city attorney in Boston, had told justices in court papers that the people who filed the suit have not shown they suffered an injury and could not bring a challenge to the Supreme Court. "Deeply felt interest in the outcome of a case does not constitute an actual injury," she said.

Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly told justices that voters can overrule the Supreme Judicial Court by adopting a constitutional amendment.

The lawsuit was filed by the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, a conservative law group, on behalf of Robert Largess, the vice president of the Catholic Action League of Massa-

chusetts, and 11 state lawmakers. "I think this decision underscores the need for Supreme Court justices who will restrain the activist impulses of ideologues on the bench," said C.J. Doyle, executive director of the Catholic Action League. "This was one skirmish, one battle in a much larger issue."

The Liberty Counsel had persuaded the Supreme Court in October to consider another high-profile issue, the constitutionality of Ten Commandments displays on government property. The court agreed to look at that church-state issue before Chief Justice William H. Rehn-

quist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

He is working from home while receiving chemotherapy and radiation and will miss court sessions for the next

two weeks State legislators will decide whether to put the issue before Massachusetts voters in November 2006. Voters in 11 states approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage in November elections. President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amend-

ment a priority of his second term. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court narrowly ruled that gavs and lesbians had a right under the state constitution to wed.

The nation's high court had stayed out of the Massachusetts fight on a previous occasion. Last May, justices refused to intervene and block clerks from issuing the first marriage licenses.

Gary Buseck, legal director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, which brought the case that led to legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts, said Monday's decision was expected.

"This was a longshot taken by our opponents in the waning hours (before) the actual legal performing of marriages of gay couples on May 17," he said.

Medical marijuana users seek exemption to federal ban

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court appeared hesitant Monday to endorse medical marijuana for patients who have a doctor's recommendation Justices are considering wheth-

er sick people in 11 states with medical marijuana laws can get around a federal ban on pot.

Paul Clement, the Bush administration's top court lawyer, noted that California allows people with chronic physical and health problems to smoke pot and said that potentially many people subjecting themselves to health dangers.

"Smoked marijuana really doesn't have any future in medicine." he said.

MILITEL

Justice Stephen Breyer said supporters of marijuana for the ill should take their fight to federal drug regulators - before coming to the Supreme Court, and sever al justices repeatedly referred to America's drug addiction problems. Dozens of people, some with blankets, camped outside the high court to hear justices debate the issue. Groups such as the Drug Free America Foundation fear a government loss will undermine campaigns against addic-

The high court heard arguments in the case of Angel Raich, who tried dozens of prescription medicines to ease the pain of a brain tumor and other illnesses before she turned to pot.

CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS

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Supporters of Raich and anoth-

er ill woman who filed a lawsuit after her California home was raided by federal agents argue that people with the AIDS virus, cancer and other diseases should be able to grow and use marijua-

Their attorney, Randy Barnett of Boston, told justices that his clients are law-abiding citizens who need marijuana to survive.

Marijuana may have some side effects, he said, but seriously sick people are willing to take the chance.

Resides California nine other states allow people to use marijuana if their doctors agree: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Arizona also has a law permitting marijuana prescriptions, but no active program.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled against the government in a divided opinion that found federal prosecution of medical marijua. na users is unconstitutional if the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines or used for

non-medicinal purposes. Lawyers for Raich and Diane Monson contend the government

has no justification for pursuing ill small-scale users. Raich, an Oakland, Calif., mother of two teenagers, has scoliosis, a brain tumor, chronic nausea and other illnesses. Monson, a 47-year-old accountant who lives near Oroville, Calif., has degenerative spine disease and grows her own marijuana plants in her backvard.

The Bush administration ar-

gues that Congress has found no accepted medical use of marijuana and needs to be able to eradicate drug trafficking and its social harms.

The Supreme Court ruled three years ago that the government could prosecute distributors of medical marijuana despite their claim that the activity was protected by "medical necessity.

Dozens of groups have weighed in on the latest case, which deals with users and is much more sweeping.

Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, conservative states that do not have medical marijuana laws. sided with the marijuana users on grounds that the federal government was trying to butt into state business of providing "for the health, safety, welfare and morals of their citizens





EXCHANGE RATES
Military rates
Japanese yen (Nov. 29)101.00
South Korean won (Nov. 27)1.026.00
Euro (Nov. 29)\$1.3602
British pound (Nov. 29)\$1.94
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.3768
British pound\$1.8951
Canada (Dollar)1.1768
Denmark (Krone)5,6162
Egypt (Pound)6.215
Euro\$1,329
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7723
Hungary (Forint)187.13
Iceland (Krona)65.225
Israel (Shekel)4,3783
Japan (Yen)102.56
Kuwait (Dinar)0.2947
Norway (Krone)6.1306
Philippines (Peso)56.15
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.75
Singapore (Dollar)1.6382
South Korea (Won)1.049.00
Switzerland (Franc)1.1392
Thailand (Baht)39.84
Turkey (Lira)1,428,571.00
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the

(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-ny), check with your local military bank-ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Federal funds market rate2.00 3-month bill su-year bond4.89 Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Kellogg CEO in line for commerce post

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday chose Carlos Gutierrez, a native of Cuba who rose from truck driver to chief executive officer of Kellogg Co., to

be secretary of commerce. If confirmed by the Senate, Gutierrez would succeed Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, a Texas confidant of Bush, who announced his resignation shortly

after the Nov. 2 election

The president called the 51-year-old Gutierrez a "great American success story" and a visionary executive, who understands the world of business.

'Carlos's family came to America from Cuba when he was a boy," Bush said in the Roosevelt Room. "He learned English from a bellhop in a Miami hotel and later became an American citizen. When his family eventually settled in Mexico City, Carlos

took his first job for Kellogg as a truck driver, delivering Frosted Flakes to local stores."

Gutierrez, who was joined by his wife, son and two daughters, is the first



ond term. Bush's chief eco-nomics advis-

new mem

Bush's eco-

nomics team

for his sec-

Stephen

of ber

Friedman. said Gutierrez week he is leaving. Other changes also are anticipated, although Treasury Secretary John Snow would like

"The secretary views his service to the president as an honor and a privilege," Rob Nichols, a Treasury Department spokes-man, said of Snow. "Like all his Cabinet colleagues, he serves at the pleasure of the president."

Looking ahead to his second term. Bush is already making changes to his current economics team. And, private economists say it is possible that could in-clude a change at the Treasury post. In early February, Snow, 65, a former chief at railroad giant CSX, replaced Paul O'Neill, who was fired by Bush as part of a shake-up of the president's eco-

The White House said Bush appreciates the job Snow is doing but refused to say he would re-main in his job. "I'm not going to get into talking about individual members of the Cabinet," White House press secretary Scott Mc-

Clellan said. Gutierrez, whose family fled Cuba in 1960 when he was 6, joined Kellogg in 1975. Known for having a strong work ethic and a seemingly endless stream of ideas, he worked all over the world for the company before being promoted to president and operating officer in June

Gutierrez, Kellogg's CEO since April 1999, is credited with shaping a major corporate and market-ing overhaul at Kellogg, narrowing the company's primary focus to cereal and wholesome snacks and reducing the company's debt.

ents and Sensibility

'Bots' make e-tail easy

Shopping robots, or "bots," offer a convenient method of comparing prices on products and finding deals online. But not all hots are alike

If you'd like to do some serious cyberspace shopping during the holiday season or simply a bit of Web-style window browsing, try one of the following sites:

www.botspot.com Gateway to all types of bots, including shop-

www.mysimon.com Browse Top Products" or goods in more than 20 shopping departments. www.pricegrabber.com Con-

tains product price comparisons in variety of categories. www.pricescan.com Search for a low price on an item or for a specific retailer.

www.roboshopper.com Features price comparison on prod-ucts ranging from electronic goods to pet care.

Peterson sentencing likely to face appeals

SAN FRANCISCO - The jury that convicted Scott Peterson of murder reconvenes this week to decide whether he should be executed. but the decision may not be final for years given his numerous options for appeal.

Appeals are expected to focus on the performance of Peterson's high-profile Los Angeles attorney, Mark Geragos, legal experts said. "An appellate attorney would argue that Geragos was incompetent,"

said Pete Kossoris, a retired Ventura County death penalty prosecutor. "One of the things he can be criticized for was his promise of certain evidence in his opening statement, and he never offered it."

After a five-month trial that became a national sensation, Peterson was convicted Nov. 12 of first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Laci, and second-degree murder in the death of the fetus she carried Arguments begin Tuesday in the trial's penalty phase, in which the same jury will decide whether he should get the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Jury selection begins for deadly smuggling trial

HOUSTON - Defendants in the first trial stemming from the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt include the son of a South Texas couple accused of running one of the operation's cells.

Jury selection was set to begin Monday afternoon in federal court. Victor Jesus Rodriguez, Claudia Carrizales de Villa and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar each face a total of 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. If convicted, each could get up to life in

Prosecutors say the three were part of a smuggling ring that tried to transport a group of more than 70 immigrants inside a tractor trailer during a trip from South Texas to Houston that began on the evening of May 13, 2003. Packed inside the trailer, which had little ventilation, the immigrants began succumbing to stifling temperatures that authorities estimate reached 173 degrees.

Early the next morning, the trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Authorities found 17 immigrants dead inside the trailer. Two others later died.

Actor John Barrymore, father of Drew, dead

LOS ANGELES - Actor John D. Barrymore, the father of Drew Barrymore, died Monday, the actress said. He was 72.

"He was a cool cat. Please smile when you think of him," Drew Barrymore said in a statement issued by her publicist.

No information was released about the cause of death or where in Los Angeles he died. John D. Barrymore was part of an acting dynasty that included his

father, John Barrymore, and his father's siblings, Lionel Barrymore and Ethel Barrymore. John D. Barrymore was born in Beverly Hills on June 4, 1932. His

From The Associated Press

mother was actress Dolores Costello.



NBC exec survives jet crash

Two killed; Dick Ebersol's younger son presumed dead

BY JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Pres.

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.— NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol and his college-age son emerged from the wreckage of a chartered jet after the plane crashed, but authorities said Monday his 14-year-old son was presumed dead in the wreckage.

The 18-seat aircraft with six people on board crashed Sunday morning at Montrose Regional Airport in southwest Colorado, not far from the Telluride Ski Area. Two crew members were also killed.

The plane slid sideways into a road and the impact ripped the cockpit from the fuselage, and Ebersol's older son Charles helped his 57-year-old father through the gap, a witness said.

through the gap, a witness said.

Matt Eilts, Montrose County
chief deputy coroner, said Monday that a "complete and thorough search" revealed no sign of
the second son on the plane, Edward, anywhere around the crash
site.

"We believe at this time that the boy has probably perished within the crash," Eilts said. He said the search in the wreckage would get under way when federal crash investigators arrived later Monday. A heavy snowstorm had eased up before the plane prepared to take off for South Bend, Ind., where Charles Ebersol is a senior at the University of Notre Dame. There was no immediate word if the weather was a factor in the

The pilot and a flight attendant were killed, said Michael O'Connor, regional duty officer with the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington state. The co-pilot was hospitalized in Denver, while Dick and Charles Ebersol were hospitalized in Grand Junction, witnesses said.

Ebersol's wife of 23 years, "Kate and Allie" and "McMillan and Wife" star Susan Saint James, was not on the plane. The family lives in Connecticut.

Kevin Sullivan, NBC Universal's vice president for sports communication, told the Rocky Mountain News late Sunday that Saint James would have "no comment at this time. She requested privacy, and she is at the hospital with Dick and Charlie," Sullivan said. Neither NBC Sports nor St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction released any information on Dick and Charles Ebersol's condi-

The co-pilot in Denver was in critical condition, authorities said Monday.

Eyewitness Chuck Distel told The Associated Press by phone that he was driving on a highway parallel to the runway when he saw the plane skid sideways through a fence and brush before hitting a road that ripped the cockpit from the fuselage. The Denver Post said the plane had lifted off briefly before crashing.

Distel said Charles helped his father throughthe front of the plane and that the pair were walking around when Distel and an airport official arrived. He said Ebersol didn't say a word but the younger man cried and yellow "Oh, my God!" Oh, my God!"

"I had to think for a second, 'who are these people?" he said. "They weren't severely injured, they were in shock." Distel said Charles was able to climb into an ambulance, while the elder Ebersol was loaded onto a stretcher.

sol was loaded onto a stretcher.

The wreckage burst into flames, forcing Distel and other

rescuers to get away.

A weekend storm that covered
most of the state dumped more
than 3 feet (I meter) of snow in
the Montrose area and Distel said
there was light snow and fost
there was light snow and fost
tors from the FAA and National
Safety Transportation Board
were en route to the airport, 298
kilometers (185 miles) southwest
of Denver.



An airplane carrying NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol burns after crashing on takeoff at Montrose Regional Airport on Sunday morning, in Montrose, Colo. One of Ebersol's sons, Charles, survived but another son. Teddy is presumed dead. KUSA reported.

The Montrose airport is one of several that serves Telluride, a popular ski destination for celebri-

The plane was identified as a CL-602 Challenger, which could hold up to 19 passengers, registered to Jet Alliance of Millville, New Jersey. The company offered its condolences but said it had no additional information.

Known as a television innova-

tor, Ebersol has a long history at NBC.

He became the network's director of late-night programming in 1974 and replaced Lorne Michaels for a rocky tenure as executive producer of "Saturday Night Live" in the early 1980s. Ebersol, of Litchfield, Connecticut, became president of NBC Sports in 1989 and recently signed a contract that keeps him at the network through 2012.

Winter storms pound Colo., central states

BY ROBERT WELLER
The Associated Press

DENVER — A snowstorm that pounded the Sierra Nevada and buried the central Rockies during the weekend delivered a snow, icy mess across the central part of the nation Monday, closing schools and making highways slick.

More than 100 schools in Nebraska were closed or opened late.

Stranded motorists had to find places to stay for the night in some areas of the state after icy, snow-covered pavement prompted shut downs of sections of Interstate 80 for several hours Sunday.

"We were on a total sheet of ice," Jennifer Priest, manager of a motel in North Platte, Neb., said of her drive to work Sunday that included a slide into a median. Her motel and others in town were jammed. Snow was up to a foot deep Mon-

day in western Nebraska. Sections of I-70 in Kansas also

were icy and snowpacked Monday and traffic was moving cautiously.

"It's still snowing and blowing a little, and it's just a mess," said Tina Schiltz, an employee at Mitten Truck Stop in Oakley, Kan.

A section of Interstate 25 southwest of Santa Fe, N.M., was shut down at dawn Monday because of an accident on ice, said S.U. Mahesh, state Department of Transportation spokesman. Later in the morning, I-40 was closed just east of Albuquerque because of snow, he said.

The storm continued producing mostly light snow Monday from New Mexico across the central Plains to the Great Lakes.

Since late last week, the weather had been blamed for at least five traffic deaths in Nebraska, three in New Mexico and two in central California.

The system dumped nearly 3 feet of snow on parts of Colorado early Sunday before hitting the heavily populated Front Range with bitter cold, blustery wind and about a half-foot of snow.

Traffic was stop-and-go from the Eisenhower Tunnel back to Denver - a distance of about 75 - as thousands of people returned from Thanksgiving holiday.Powder blanketed the field during the Denver Broncos game Sunday night against the Oakland Raiders.In southwest Colorado, a small jet crashed Sunday at the Montrose airport, killing at least two people, NBC Sports President Dick Ebersol and one of his sons walked out of the wreckage but another son was missing. It was not immediately clear if snow was a factor.

Fifteen inches of snow fell in Wyoming during the weekend and hundreds of traffic accidents were reported.



Historian, philosopher share \$1M Kluge prize

BY CARL HARTMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An y-pear-old American historian, Jaroslav Pelikan, and a 91-year-old French philosopher, Paul Ricoeur, will share the \$1 million Kluge prize, created by

million Kluge prize, created by a Virginia philanthropist last year to honor achievement in fields not covered by the Nobel

prizes.
Pelikan, who lives in New Haven, Conn., has specialized in the story of Christianity from its beginnings to the present. He has written more than 30 books, using sources in nine languages and dealing with literary and musical as well as doctrinal aspects of religion. He is a former president of the American Acad-

emy of Arts and Sciences.
Pelikan "has moved over time
to consider the whole history of
church doctrine, both through
the western Roman Catholic
Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church," said James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress.

Ricoeur has taught at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, Columbia and Yale universities, the University of Chicago and Louvain University in Belgium, as well as at the Sorbonne and other French institutions.

Orphaned in World War I, Ricoeur was drafted in World War II and was captured and spent most of the conflict as a prisoner of war in Germany. He was active in the French Socialist Party afterward.

Billington, announcing the award he will present on Dec. 8, described Ricoeur's work as drawing on the entire tradition of western philosophy to explore and explain common problems: What is a self? How is memory used and abused? What is the nature of responsibility?

The prize was established by John W. Kluge, chairman of the private sector advisory body of the Library of Congress. The first year's prize, for 2003, went to Leszek Kolakowski, a Polish anti-communist bhilosopher.

7 die in Texas copter crash

Black Hawk chopper from Fort Hood hit tower support wires

BY NATALIE GOTT

The Associated Press

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY, Texas — An Army helicopter crashed and burned Monday after hitting a TV transmission-tower wire in the fog, killing all seven soldiers aboard, military officials said.

Warning lights on the tower were not working, a TV station official said.

The UH-60 Black Hawk, bound for the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana with seven soldiers from Fort Hood aboard, went down in a field about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood.

miles nortneast of Fort Hood.

The fog was so thick when emergency crews arrived that they could not see more than halfway up the tower, authorities said.

Everyone aboard was killed, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood. Their names were not immediately released.

Rock Eicke, who lives about a quarter-mile from the crash site, said he was getting ready for work at about 7 a.m. when he was startled by a loud sound. He looked out his window and saw the helicopter hit the ground.

"Åll of the sudden I just saw a big ball of fire erupt from the ground and then boom, an explosion," said Eicke. "It was burning to the point that we couldn't have done anything."

The main part of the fuselage went down in a field

about 200 to 300 yards from the tower, said McClennan County constable Ken Brown.

He said he saw the tail section, parts of the rotor and other helicopter parts between the tower and the field.

the field.

Base spokesman Dan Hassett did not know what kind of mission the helicopter was on, but said the

soldiers were attached to the 4th Infantry Division.
"Our hearts and condolences go out to the family
and friends of these soldiers and we're going to do
all we can to support the families in their time of
grief," Withington said.

The helicopter hit a wire that stabilizes an 1,800-foot television broadcasting tower, said Jerry Pursley, general manager of Waco-Temple-Killeen television station KXXV, which owns the tower.

The tower itself was not hit, he said. He said the station notified the Federal Aviation Administration. The agency's spokesman in Texas did not respond to a call seeking comment.

The Black Hawk, which the military began using in 1979, is the Army's main troop transport helicopter.

It can carry 15 people and usually is flown by a crew of four. In November 2003, 17 soldiers were killed when

U.S. troops in Iraq.

two Black Hawk helicopters crashed in Iraq, apparently as the result of enemy fire. At the time it was the deadliest single event for



WEDNESDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 1 2004

MOVIEC	• CDODTC

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	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	•ESPNews	Pacific Report	The Parkers Ste- vie's mom brings home a boyfriend. (CC)	Arrested Develop- ment "Visiting Ours" Michael visits prison. (CC)	America's Next To	p Model (CC)	Las Vegas "The Big tempts to calm a bla bomb strapped to h	ackiack player with a	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show	(CC)	Late Show (CC)
7	AFN-ATL	(5:46) Oprah Win- frey (CC)	(:35) Guiding Light	(CC)	(:17) General Hos- pital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				The Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Buzz Lightyear of Star Command
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chris	Matthews	The O'Reilly Facto		CNN Daybreak		Good Morning Am	erica (CC)			Headline News	Channel One
9	SPORTS	•(5:00) Sports		SportsCenter		•Sports				 SportsCenter 		•Sports	
10	SPEC	The Simpsons Homer gets the	Everybody Loves Raymond Ray up-	The Amazing Race	(CC)	Christmas in Rock	efeller Center (CC)	Discovery Specials	s: Natural Wonders k at the intriguing an	Friends Chandler, Joey get an adult	Seinfeld Kramer visits a vet for his	The Daily Show	Blind Date (CC)
10	AFN-FAM	electric chair. (CC) SpongeBob	sets Debra. (CC)	Even Stevens	Kenan & Kel	Gilmore Girls "Har	nmore and Vaile"	imal and plant life o Degrassi: Next	f the Rockies.	channel. (CC)	cough. (CC) Home Improve.	Touched by an An	anl (CC)
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24	PBS	Dragon Tales Mun- gus picks all the berries. (EI)	Zoom (EI) (CC) (DVS)	The NewsHour Wit (CC)	h Jim Lehrer (N)	National Geograph search for gold and sunken SS Republi	silver coins from the	Regency House Pa	arty Men train for bo	king. (N) (CC) (DVS)	Back to the Floor Week in customer service. (CC)	Charlie Rose Paul Schmidt. (N) (CC)	Otellini, Eric
25	SHOW	(4:35) ** "Hero" (1992) Dustin Hoff- man.	(:35) *x "The Scar Puritan woman has	let Letter" (1995, Dr an affair with a minis	ama) Demi Moore, G ster. 'R' (CC)	iary Oldman, Robert	Duvall. A married	HUFF "Assault and his assistant. (CC)	Pepper" Huff needs	* * "Double Whan beth Hurley, Steve I practor start a roma	Buscemi. A depresse	/) Denis Leary, Eliza- d cop and his chiro-	(:35) *x "Plain Dirty" (2003) Do- minique Swain.
27	A&E	City Confidential "(the Rabbi" A belove	d rabbi is implicated	American Justice ' cide?" Accused kille	rs claim victim	American Justice Zack?" Jeff Zack. (N		Biography in the N son" Scott Peterson	is convicted of	Biography "Val Kilr (CC)	ner" Val Kilmer. (N)	Crossing Jordan " and Squalor" Jorda	n encounters a mys-
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29	TFC	Larry King Live (C)		,		(:us) Insider Business Internati	Special Assignment		Ayan Biz Asia	CNNI World News	(:40) Masayang Ta World Report	IBiz Asia	Business Interna-
30	CNN-I			CNNI World News		Business internati	onai	Asia Tonight					tional
31	GOLF		s Australian Open I					Golf Channel Academy	Golf Central	Golf Channel Academy	Golf Central	 Playing Lessons From the Pros 	From the Pros
32	TLC	Clean Sweep "Esca Mountain" House ov zines.	errun by old maga-	ban sanctuary gets		Monster House "S Bland backyard trar surfer girl getaway.	nsformed into a	In a Fix "Par Le Flo		Taking Care of Business "Big Fun" Toy store appeals to all ages. (N)		als to all ages. (N) Bland backyard transforme surfer girl getaway.	
34	TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laborato- ry	Codename: Kids Next Door	Justice League	Powerpuff Girls!	Cartoon Cartoon C	Cartoon shorts.	Looney Tunes	I Am Weasel	m Weasel Sheep in the Big Detective Squad City		
35	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter The isolate habitants of the world's largest san land are visited. (CC)		Most Extreme: Spe of the animal kingdo cheetah, basilisk liz	om, including the ard and ostrich.	Show* Brooklyn, N. (CC)	ow" Brooklyn, N.Y., boa constrictor. rus" The polar bear; walrus. (CC) glected wire-haired fox terriers discov- ered. (CC) (C		Show" Brooklyn, N.Y., boa constrictor. CC)		The Jeff Corwin E Show' Brooklyn, N. (CC)	xperience "Urban Y., boa constrictor.	
36	сом	Heroes of Black Comedy (Part 5 of 5) (CC)	Wanda Does It (CC)	The Daily Show Tom Brokaw. (CC)	Mad TV In "Cabana Wetsworth has sexu show "Test Pattern."	ual thoughts; new	Crank Yankers David Alan Grier. (CC)	Reno 911! DA probes sheriff's de- partment. (CC)	South Park The boys learn about circumcision. (CC)	South Park The boys attempt to se- cure viewership.	Drawn Together A producer-initiated challenge. (N)	The Daily Show Thomas Frank. (N) (CC)	South Park The boys attempt to se cure viewership.
40	NGC-A	Extreme Latitude Avoiding unexplod- ed landmines.	Shots "Senegal" Didier Awadi.	Snake Wranglers Venom of the fer- de-lance.	Croc Chronicles Black caiman.	Dogs With Jobs Police dog.	Insects From Hell Armored beetles and bugs.	patients attend con- ness for AIDS and I	HIV.	My Favorite Monk	-	Tango!	Sunset, Boulevar of Dreams
42	SPIKE	World's Wildest Po	lice Videos (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene tle, Gentle" (CC)	Investigation "Gen-	CSI: Crime Scene 'Sounds of Silence'	'(CC)	The Club "Strugglin		Leonard Nimoy. Kirl	: The Undiscovered is accused of assas	Country" (1991) Wi	lliam Shatner, chancellor. (CC)
43	FOX	Remington Steele	(CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)		That '70s Show 'Angie' Hyde's fa- ther's company.	The Simple Life 2: Road Trip (N) (CC)	Nanny 911 "McRob with five rambunctio help. (N) (CC)				The Bob Newhart Show "Last TV Show"	The Bob Newhart Show "Motel"
44	BET	106 & Park: BET's	Top 10 Live Chingy.	•	Access Granted "Baby" (N)	The Parkers (CC)	Girlfriends (CC)	Coming to the Sta	ge	Club Comic View i	Romont Harris. (N)	BET Nightly News Paying for college.	Access Granted "Baby"
46	COURT	NYPD Blue Russell lationship is strained murder case. (CC)		Cops Police offi- cers in Albu- querque, N.M. (CC)	Cops Woman is ar- rested while chil- dren watch.	The Investigators investigate the disa formant.	"Into Thin Air" Police ppearance of an in-	Forensic Files (N)	Psychic Detec- tives (N)	Stories of the Inno Life Stolen (N)	ocence Project: A	Caught	Masterminds "William Smarto"
48	STR-WLD	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Star News Focus Asia	Friends (CC)	Ed (CC)		Philly		Third Watch (CC)		Friends (CC)	Ed (CC)
50	LIFE	The Golden Girls Dorothy and Stan feign marriage.	The Golden Girls Dorothy's son's get- ting married.	"What Lies Above' Singer: A woman re	(2004, Suspense) Number turns to the mountain	vicole Eggert, Georg n pass where her hu	e Stults, Marc sband died. (CC)	* * "The Three Liv sikaris, Tim Guinee. (CC)	es of Karen" (1997 Undue stress cause	, Drama) Gail O'Grad is a woman to forget	ly, Dennis Bout- years of her life.	The Nanny Maxwell wants Maggie in a nunnery. (CC)	The Golden Girls A murder mystery weekend. (CC)
51	ABCFAM	7th Heaven "A Cry student calls Eric's s dio station. (CC)	for Help" A suicidal show at a college ra-	Smallville "Insurger rescue hostages wi powers. (CC)	thout revealing his	* * "Little Giants single dad coaches	** "Little Giants" (1994, Comedy) Rick single dad coaches a football team compo		ck Moranis, Ed O'Neill, John Madden, A		Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Title Se- quence." (CC) Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Ques- tions Only." (CC)		
53	HIST	The True Story of t vans (CC)	he Fighting Sulli-	Modern Marvels B largest and most po Sikorsky helicopter.	werful jet engine;	Modern Marvels "1 Autobahn in Germa it. (CC)	The Autobahn" The rry has no speed lim-	Full Throttle The G sented Buick's retur roots. (N) (CC)	rand National repre- n to its "muscle car"	Modern Marvels "S neers learn from di	Sub Disasters" Engi- saster. (N) (CC)	History vs. Hollyw sure" "National Trea	ood "National Trea- sure." (CC)
57	STR-MV	* "Frank McKlusk Dolly Parton, Kevin his partner's murder	y, C.I." (2002, Comeo Pollak. An insurance :	ty) Dave Sheridan, investigator probes	(:20) ★★5 "Rambo Richard Crenna, Ma et-occupied Afghani	arc de Jonge, John F	e) Sylvester Stallone, lambo heads to Sovi-	* * "The Recruit" han. A CIA rookie n	(2003, Suspense) A nust ferret out a mole	Al Pacino, Colin Farre within the agency.	II, Bridget Moyna-	(10:55) *** "The (2003, Adventure) T Watanabe, Timothy	fom Cruise, Ken Spall.
58	ADV 1	Ice Riders	•X Power		Shishapangma: Sk Zone		Adventure Planet	Florida's Aqua Ca	res	Arctic Aviators	Ice Riders		Adventure Plane
59	MTV	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Direct Effect		Hard Rock Live Maroon 5. (N)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Shady National Co	nvention	MTV News Now "The Evolution of Eminem" (N)	Pimp My Ride A 1985 Chevy Subur- ban.	Pimp My Ride A 1958 VW Bus.	Pimp My Ride A 1991 Ford Escort.
60	NICK	Juice "Rugrats/Sponge- Bob SquarePants"	Juice "The Wild Thomberrys"	Juice "CatDog/The Angry Beavers"	Juice "As Told By Ginger"	Scaredy Camp Solitary night game at lake.	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	All That	Even Stevens (CC)	The Brothers Gar- cia (CC)	Cousin Skeeter (CC)	Figure It Out	Legends of the Hidden Temple

JAPAN TV

12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12) 1:30 U.S. Movie (1988): Rambo III (2:00)(42)

5:50 News (6) Evening

7:00 NHK News (1)

Afternoon

7:25 Simple Rules (3) 9:00 U.S. Movie (1993): The Fugitive (1:54)(6) 10:00 News (1)

10:00 America's Top 40 (42) 2:38 TV Series: Bull (6)

JAPAN TV-BS7

6:15 World News 7:15 World News

8:15 World News

9:15 World News Hour 10:10 BS World Documentary (r)

11:15 CNN News

Afternoon 12:15 CNN News

3:15 CNN News

4:15 World News Hour 5:15 Asian News

Evening 6:15 CNN News

7:15 Asian News 8:15 World News 9:15 Economic News

9:35 History of FIFA 10:10 Documentary: Hunt for AIDS Vaccine 11:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Portland Trail Blazers

1:10 Exciting Sports 2:15 Asian News 3:35 World Amazing Sports

4:15 Asian News 5:15 World News Hour

JAPAN TV-BS11

9:50 Aerobics

10:00 Classical Music: Mt. Fuji Lake Kawagu-chi Music Festival 2004 conductor: Yuta-ka Sado)

3:00 Lonesome Dove: On the Trail (r) 4:35 Railway Adventures across U.S.A.

8:00 U.S. Movie (1992): Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot (1:30) 10:00 TV Series: Alias 2

wowow

Morning 7:30 Oswald #50

8:00 U.S. Movie (1959): North by Northwest (2:20) 10:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Changing Lanes (1:40)

Afternoon

12:00 TV Series: Third Watch

1:00 French-Italian Movie (2002): Lundi Matin (2:10) 3:10 U.S. Movie (2002): One Hour Photo (1:40)

Evening
6:00 U.S. Movie (1955): East of Eden (2:00)
8:00 U.S. Movie (2:002): Enough (1:57)
10:00 Chinese Movie (2:002): Together (2:00)
2:40 UEFA Euro 2:004 Soccer: Portugal vs.
Greece

Greece 4:40 U.S.-British Movie (2002): The Four Feathers (2:17)

MTV

6-00 Wake Un

7:00 M Size Tuesday 8:00 Think Loud 2004 World AIDS Day Special

Evening 6:00 M Size Wed

7:00 Think Loud 2004 World AIDS Day Special

1:00 M Size Wednesday 2:00 Think Loud 2004 World AIDS Day Special

FACES

Roberts gives birth to twins

It's a girl and a boy for actress Julia Roberts and her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder.

Roberts gave birth to twins Hazel Patricia Moder and Phinnaeus Walter Moder on Sunday morning at a Southern California hospital, publicist Marcy Engelman said

Roberts, 37, was confined to bed last month after experiencing a series of early contractions and wasn't due until early January

Engelman said Sunday in a phone interview that "mother and babies are doing great," but didn't release the twins' weights or other details. Roberts, who skyrocketed to fame

with "Pretty Woman" in 1990, has two films coming out in early December - Mike Nichols' "Closer" and "Ocean's Twelve," the Steven Soderbergh-directed sequel to

2001's star-studded heist caper



Roberts married Moder in July 2002 at her home in Taos. N.M. The twins are the first children for Roberts. who won the best actress Oscar in 2001 for "Erin Brock-

Prison chow not a good thing

The food at the Federal Corrections Camp in Alderson, W.Va., apparently is nothing to write home about - unless one is eating it with Martha

Stewart. Roman Catholic nun Carol Gilbert. 57, who is serving time in the same prison with the famous home-

maker, says she enjoys eating with Stewart, although the setting could he better "We're not talking about a tea " Gilbert's attorney, Sue Typarty

hurski told Denver's Rocky Mountain News for a story in Saturday's editions. "We're talking about a big cafeteria setting with the terrible food.

Gilbert is serving 33 months on convictions of obstructing the national defense and damaging government property for her role in an anti-war protest in 2002. Stewart was convicted on obstruction of justice in May

and began serving her five-month sentence at the women's federal prison Oct. 8

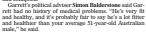
Politician/rock star collapses at beach

Australian rock star-turned-lawmaker Peter Carrett was hospitalized after collapsing on a Sydney beach after a morning

swim, authorities said. Garrett, former lead singer of Midnight Oil, collapsed on Maroubra beach early Saturday. Lifeguards came to his aid when he collapsed as he waded from the water where he

had been body surfing. He was discharged from Prince Wales Hospital on Saturday evening, saving he would undergo

further tests to determine why he had collapsed.



Illinois Republicans get ribbing

Democratic Sen.-elect Barack Obama poked fun at the Illinois Republican Party when he appeared as a guest on the "Late Show with David Letterman."

Obama told Letterman on Friday night's show that after Republican challenger Jack Ryan dropped out of the race in June, the state's GOP "couldn't find anyone out of the 12 million people in Illinois to run against me." Instead, Illinois Repub-licans picked Alan Keyes, a conservative political commentator from Maryland, to replace Ryan on the November hallot

Obama won 70 percent of the vote on Nov. 2 compared to 27 percent for Keves.





Members of the R&B group New Edition, from left, Johnny Gill, Ricky Bell, Ralph Tresvant, Mike Bivins and Ron DeVoe, pose for a picture in September before the halftime show of the New York Urban League Classic football game between Morgan State University and Hampton University at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

New Edition struggles with 'old school' comeback

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY The Associated Press

NEW YORK ver the past two decades, New Edition has managed to overcome the kind of obstacles that have

sent other groups hurtling into "Whatever Hap-pened To ..." territory. They aced their transition from preteen bubblegum pop to adult R&B, survived the loss (and subsequent reappearance) of the dynamic Bobby Brown, endured lackluster sales and flourished despite divergent career paths and

stretches of inactivity Vet their latest comeback attempt may prove the most

difficult one yet. On Nov. 9, Ralph Tresvant, Johnny Gill, Michael Bivins,

Ricky Bell and Ronnie DeVoe released "One Love," their eighth album, after an eight-year layoff. Although signed to P. Diddy's youth-oriented Bad Boy label, they've still got "old-school" stamped all over them. And that's part of the problem, especially in an R&B market dominated by young stars with a hip-hop bent.

Already they've struggled — the album's first single, "Hot 2Nite," peaked at just No. 35 on Billboard's Top 100

R&B and Hin-Hon chart The Boston-bred group

- once again without Bobby Brown — is well aware of the challenges. Sitting together in a Washington hotel conference room after a planned concert was scrapped due to technical issues, the men nod their heads in agreement when talking about the ruthlessness of today's market.

"We've been in the business for 20 years or more but we haven't been on radio consistently year after year. The game changes," said Bell.

Bivins is even more blunt: "They send you home early. I think this generation is a little more colder.

And DeVoe says a recent conversation with a young teen about her music favorites confirmed his worst fears. "She said, 'Let me start with the people I don't like. 50 Cent - he's played out.' How is 50 Cent played out? He only had one record! [But] it's like that across the board. he lamented

Still, New Edition has reason to be hopeful. Their last record, 1996's "Home Again," also came after an eight-year layoff — and sold more than two million copies.

And their recent tour showed they still have an audience: At this summer's Essence Festival, where acts such as Prince and Mary J. Blige were billed as the main draw, New Edition got one of the wildest receptions, as thirty-something women shrieked like teenagers and men in baggy jeans swayed to past hits such as "Can You Stand The Rain," "Mr. Telephone Man," and "Candy Girl."

"They have such a broad core audience," says producer Jimmy Jam, who along with partner Terry Lewis worked with the group on the new disc, which incorporates a bit of today's hip-hop sound along with the polished R&B grooves that New Edition fans have come to expect. "It really benefits them when they're coming out with a record that they have that fan hase to draw upon "As far as their showmanship and the energy when they

hit the screen and the stage ... they're like, professional, says another "One Love" producer, Stevie J. "Kids are ing to get a chance to hear some classic sounds from an older R&B group.

"They have to reinvent themselves," he said. "It's going to happen. Not that New Edition is exactly ancient: They're all in

their mid to late 30s. "The crazy part about it is they're not older than most of the people that are in the game right now, it's just that they started so young," says P. Diddy.

New Edition was the '80s answer to The Jackson Five. With hits such as "Popcorn Love." they endeared themselves to R&B teenyboppers and helped rejuvenate the teen music scene, spawning imitators such as fellow Boston natives New Kids on the Block. But unlike other teen groups, they managed to stick around past puberty, and even withstood personnel changes, including the loss of Brown in the late '80s (he briefly rejoined the group for 1996's "Home Again" album and tour) and the addition of Gill around the same time.

Although the P. Diddy connection has provided some prerelease hype, the group acknowledges the difficulties of capitalizing on it. Bivins said the market is so saturated with rap it's hard for any R&B act to get attention.

"If you look at a [radio] playlist ... out of the top 20 records they're playing, 15 of them are hip-hop. So there's no room for R&B, and it's not just us, it's everybody." he said.

But they still plan on getting on that list - even if it takes them a while to do it.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Skydiving Santa nixed

CA ANAHEIM — Santa Claus can build toys, shimmy down a chimney and harness flying reindeer. But one thing he can't do any more is skydive near Disneyland.

An annual "Jingle Bell Jump," with Santa parachuting to the Anaheim Town Square shopping center with gifts and greetings, was canceled for a second year be-cause of a federal law restricting use of area airspace

Instead, Santa will float in a hot air balloon tethered to the ground. Disney officials say the flight restrictions are needed to thwart terrorists who could target the park. Managers of the 50-store shopping

Textbook costs probed

center don't buy it

GA ATLANTA — The state Board of Regents reviewed ways to curb the increasing costs of textbooks. Some students must pay hundreds of dollars for books that can make up 20 percent of the college costs, state financial officials said

Textbook editions are updated about every four years, forcing many students to buy new books instead of cheaper used ones. "The cost has become prohibitive to an awful lot of people," Chancellor Tom Meredith said.

Turkey truck crash kills 3

OK TAHLEQUAH — A car collided with a tractor-trailer carrying 11,000 pounds of frozen turkeys, killing three people, authorities said.

The victims were in the car, which drove through a stop sign around 6 p.m., according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Nobody in the truck was injured. "There was nothing we could do about it." said Aaron Gower, a passenger in the truck. "It was like they didn't even know there was a stop sign."

Boy hit, killed by car

FLORAL CITY - Each school morning, Sean Ryan Sullivan's mother, Carmen, helped him get ready for the day.

She made sure he was dressed and fed, homework in hand. Then she watched from the front screen door as her son headed for the nearby bus ston

As her son ran the nearly 200 yards, she noticed the next-door neighbor pull her Pontiac sedan out of the driveway and make a wide turn onto the mad

Blinded by the sun, the neighbor drove across the center of the two-lane road and struck the 8-year-old as his mother watched.

Emergency crews flew Sean to a hospital, where he died a few hours later, authorities said.

"The family's torn up. (The neighbor) is pretty torn up," said Mark Turner, the boy's uncle. "He was very outgoing, a boisterous and fun-loving kid.

The Florida Highway Patrol is investigating, but no charges have been filed, a spokesman said



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Heaven? No, the DMV

MO KANSAS CITY — Missou-ri's oldest full-time state employee figures she's got 10 more vears to go before it's time to retire. By then, her age will be in triple digits and she can "take four or five years off and party."

Virginia Arn, who just turned 90, said her job at the Division of Motor Vehicle and Drivers Licensing is "heaven.

"I love the people. I have a lot of fun with them. People are always asking me how old I am, and I don't mind telling them," she said.

For the past 5 years, Arn has worked as a greeter at the DMV. helping people find the right line and making sure they have the correct paperwork. Office manager Dave Hostetler said she has the best attendance record in the office.

The job, combined with dancing at least four times a week, keens her going.

"Just think about it, 90 years old and working with a smile every day at the DMV, one place most people don't like to go," said Raymond Hune, division director for the department.

Arn, a widow, has two children, grandchildren, five nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren with another on the way



Lighting the season Musicians participate in the Kansas City, Mo., tree-lighting ceremony at Crown Center Square. Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes and singer Marilyn Maye flipped the switch to turn on 7.200 white lights on the city's Christmas tree.

Site touts Bay as anti-L.A.

CA LOS ANGELES — This just in: Los Angeles finally has something people in San Francisco want - money

"We love people from Los Angeles, we love when they spend their money in our town. We love that!" says Diane DeRose, the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau executive behind "Not in L.A.," a new campaign to lure winter tourists to the City by the Bay. As the campaign's name implied whatever you can't find in L.A. you will be able to locate in San Francisco

Links to the Not in L.A. Web site have been showing up in magazine ads, on coasters left in bars and on "mobile billboards" being moved around town. People who go to the site can find out more about places and landmarks such as Union Square, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, the Mission district and other parts of the city they may want to visit.

So, just what does San Francisco have that Los Angeles doesn't? That question can be answered in just two words, says S.A. Griffin, an actor who moved south to pursue a career in Hollywood

"Is there anything they have up there that we don't have here? Yeah — San Francisco." laughs Griffin. "Few places in the world are as beautiful as San Francisco. But you couldn't pay me enough money to move back up there. I couldn't imagine living any place other than Los Angeles

Andy Warhol gets bridge

PA PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh will soon be home to the Andy Warhol Bridge. The Allegheny County Council approved a resolution renaming Seventh Street Bridge in honor of the Pittsburgh native.

The bridge was chosen because of its proximity to The Andy Warhol Museum. Museum officials are considering holding a renaming ceremony in the spring.

Hefty bank error

VA SUFFOLK — When Mike Kainrath found an extra \$1.8 million in his bank account last week, he had just one thought: "Oh, no! Not again.

Kainrath had found an extra \$115,661 in the account in April 2003, and \$2,700 in November 2002

According to the notice Kainrath received Nov. 17 from the Bank of New York, the money was supposed to have been transferred between a different bank in New York and one in the Netherlands Antilles

Kevin Heine, a spokesman for the bank, said that sooner or later the error would have been caught when banks reconciled their transfers to each other

Kainrath, a marketing research manager at The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in Norfolk, said he is going to make one change the next time he's in New York, just in case another huge sum lands in his account again, even for a few days.

"I'm going to change it to an interest-bearing account," he said.



Sunny outing

Kristin Fitzgerald jogs against the backdrop of reflections shimmering off the water of University Lake, taking advantage of crisp, sunny weather in Baton Rouge, La.



Fun with family Emily Kinder, 13, left, tries to intercept a pass intended for her cousin, James Abla, 12, in Salina, Kan. The family decided to start a game of football so they could get some post-Thanksgiving exercise.



Wearing a sweater lined with Santa's li'l bicyclist Christmas lights, Kelly Foley, of Wrightwood, Calif., rides her bike past a decorated float in the Wrightwood Parade of Lights. The event featured motorized vehicles lit up with holiday lights and decorations.



Aly Whalen, from left, Catie Gruenwald and Mackenzie Jenkins, all A colorful discovery A COLOTTUL UISCOVETY 10-year-olds from Epiphany Grade School, follow colored circles of light at the Color Dance exhibit on the third floor of the Children's Discovery Museum, in Normal, Ill., after the museum's ribbon-cutting ceremony in downtown Normal.



Off-road drivers navigate the sand Riding the dunes dunes at Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area near Glamis, Calif.



Gone toboggan A worker sprays the refrigerated chutes of the toboggan run at the Chalet in the Metroparks Mill Stream Run Reservation in Strongsville, Ohio.



MO KANSAS CITY — The American Civil Liberties Union sued a southwest Missouri school district for prohibiting a high school student from wearing gav-pride-themed T-shirts.

The district has said the T-shirts were disruptive and therefore a violation of school dress code. The lawsuit filed in federal court also names Webb City High School Principal Stephen P. Gollhofer.

"Because I'm gay, my school is trying to take away my constitutional right as an American to ex-press myself," the student, Brad Mathewson, said in a statement.

The 16-year-old junior started attending the high school this year. On Oct 20, he came to class wearing a shirt from the Gay-Straight Alliance at his former high school in Fayetteville, Ark.

Snail may threaten crop

TX HOUSTON — Agriculture officials are worried that a non-native snail the size of a fist may grow to threaten the Texas rice crop.

Authorities have discovered the channeled applesnail bodies of water in Southeast Texas, including the Chambers County Golf Course pond.

"So far, these snails have not infested areas sufficiently in Texas to cause damage," Lyubov Burlako-va, an adjunct biology professor at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, said in Friday's editions of the Houston Chronicle.

Because of the discovery, research scientists, including Burlakova, started a study this month of the snail's lifestyle and to project its notential danger to rice crons and aquatic habitat in Texas.

Missing man's body found

HETTINGER - A gun and ND HETTINGER — 11 gun unhe those of an elderly man with Alzheimer's were found in an abandoned building where the body of his wife was discovered earlier thic month

The remains were found in the attic of the derelict house, Adams County Sheriff Eugene Molbert said. Searchers who previously had looked up through the ceiling boards thought the attic was empty, but Molbert said the man's body was found partly inside a barrel.

Molbert said the gun found was also similar to a .22-caliber gun missing from the couple's home. Autonsy results were expected to make a positive identification.

Norman Olson, 73, and his wife Yvonne, 69, disappeared in August, leaving behind cash, credit cards and thawing meat on the counter of their home in Hettinger about 100 miles southwest of Bismarck

Mysterious noises solved

VA RICHMOND — Authorities have arrested a 15-year-old resident of the neighborhood where mysterious booms have frightened residents since the beginning of the month

The teenager, who was not identified was charged with possess-

Gay pride T-shirt lawsuit | ing or manufacturing an explosive device. The crime, a felony, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

PAGE 19

Other youths might also be involved, according to authorities, who said a citizen tip led them to the suspect.

The explosions were caused by a simple chemical reaction, a city public works spokesman told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Three devices recovered by police earlier this week were made of common materials, including plastic soda bottles.

Say offender list online

PA HARRISBURG — Governor Ed Rendell has signed a law allowing photographs and personal information on more than 7.000 registered sex offenders to be posted on the Internet within six months.

Pennsylvania's current database provides information on just 57 sexual offenders and is available to the public only by e-mail request.

The new law, which Rendell signed Wednesday, calls for a site listing the name, city, county, postal code and picture of every registrant. Street addresses will be posted for the most serious offenders, classified as "sexually violent predators'

Opponents of the expanded Web postings said the law will hurt efforts to rehabilitate convicted sex offenders and likely set off a new wave of court challenges

Exorcism or vandalism?

MN ST. PAUL — Police are investigating an informal exorcism at the Cathedral of St. Paul directed at gay Roman Catholics. Officials say the ritualistic sprinkling of blessed oil and salt around the church and in donation boxes amounted to costly vandalism and possibly a hate crime. The damage was discovered Nov. 7 and will cost thousands of dollars to clean

Sheriff gets tough

D CALDWELL — Canyon County Sheriff George Nourse believes classifying gang violence as domestic terrorism could help blunt the escalation of street violence. The number of shooting reports in the county of 150,000 people is approaching 200 since July. Two men have been killed and several others wounded. The city of Caldwell has asked for federal financial help to increase re sources to fight street violence and provide young people with alternatives to gang involvement.

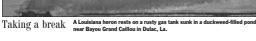
Checking out history

KEENE — People checking out books from Keene's public library now can check out the library's history, too.

About 130 years of library records have been preserved on microfilm with the help of a state conservation grant. The project cost about \$4,000 — the money was provided through the state's "moose" charity license plate program.

The records range run from 1859 minutes of library board trustee meetings through the late 1990s

Stories and photos from wire services



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Attack bigger than Scouts

I am truly amazed at the glibness of the Nov. 28 headline "It's business as usual for Pacific Boy Scouts." That the article was deemed important enough to take up half of Page 3 was probably sheer dumb luck on the part of the Stripes editors — as evidenced by the front-page (Japan and Korea editions) outrage over a 40-year-old desertion case. The Stripes article by Greg Tyler, Jennifer H. Svan. Fred Zimmerman. Teri Weaver, Franklin Fisher and Hwang Hae-rym—and further the American Civil Liberties Union-defending letter to the editor ("ACLU defends rights," Nov. 28) by a rather clueless first lieutenant-attorney totally miss the importance of the underlying issue: that this is an attack, not just on the Boy Scouts of America, but on the very basis of our liberty.

Our rights as defined by the Constitution of the United States of America, nay, the very foundation of our nation and the cause we deem worthy to spill our best blood for. are based upon the idea and proposition that we all have "certain inalienable rights." One sentence from the Declaration of Independence defines the spark that lit the torch of liberty and gave light to all the Earth: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The very foundation of our liberty, nation and culture is the concept of inalienable rights (rights that can not be taken away) and the basis for that concept is an acknowl edgment of God. (Note that identification of God as Christ, Yahweh, Buddha, Allah, etc is deliberately not specified, no national reli gion is implied, only an acknowledgment of a supreme source of right and wrong.)

Our government exists to secure these — not to grant them. That is why we went to war with England; that is really what justifies why we are fighting in so many places now

The ACLU and Americans United for Separation of Church and State and other "civil-liberties advocates" have about as much in common with "defending rights" as the so-called "Democratic People's Repub-lic of Korea" and the "People's Republic of China" have with democracy and republi can/representative government. Indeed, the aforementioned countries are notorious for human-rights abuses simply because they are founded on the proposition that there i no god but the state, and the people only have those rights the state (their god) deems to grant - therefore, "rights abuses" are not possible by definition of principle. The state giveth, and the state taketh away.

The current movement by the ACLU et to use part of the First Amendment ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof") to divorce God and country is an attack against the very heart and soul of our nation. Our national courts and justice system are being co-opted by either naive or designing people to enact effec-

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tive legislation from the bench that would have no chance of acceptance by the House of Representatives, the Senate or the general population

As U.S. citizens and members of the Department of Defense, we are sworn to de-fend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic Our nation is threatened both at home and abroad and we must act within our appropriate constitutional channels to defend it. Among the nations of the Earth, our defense tools are diplomacy and a mighty military At home so long as representative government shall last, our defense tools are the ballot and the pen.

Curtis M Renham Yokota Air Base, Japan

Rising above Sun Bowl attack

Clearly, who wins the Rising Sun Bowl is not the stuff that makes national news head lines. And I am not one who is normally moved to respond to opinion pieces that, on the whole, are usually "much to do about nothing." But the Nov. 21 letter "Rising Sun Bowl no contest" had two ingredients that

demanded a bit of my attention. First, Mark Ertz's letter is little more than griping disguised as a call to action. His real purpose was to somehow diminish the hard-earned success of Yokota High's players and its football program. His recommendation for an all-star/all-conference game format as a "more creative and more fair bowl game" would probably appear more sincere had it been submitted to the editor in August - or even the day prior to the 2004 Rising Sun Bowl.

My guess is that 98 percent of Star and Strines' readership understands that Yokota's domination of the Rising Sun Bowl is a function of the young players who work so hard to uphold a tradition of excellence that was built by equally hard-working players. years before this year's squad arrived in

Most readers probably understood that

the coaching staff that has built this tradition of winning is a noble group of men, supported by the new families that come in and out of Team Yokota every year. I'll even bet that most readers understood that the decision to split the Kadena High football program into two teams is based on the fact that its enrollment more than doubles any other school, anywhere in Japan. Truth be told, even splitting Kadena in half still puts Yokota High student enrollment as No. 4 be-

hind both "halves" of Kadena

To be clear in my intent, the reference to "one arm tied behind their backs" is the weakest point of any argument that seeks to call champions "bullies." This brings me to my second point: I can't really give credit to Mr. Ertz for coming up with the visual of the Islanders taking the field with an arm tied behind them. That honor goes to their coach, Sergio Mendoza, quoted in an interview minutes after their defeat ("Panthers wallop Islanders," Stripes, Nov. 15).

the same article, Mr. Mendoza was quoted as saying he was "not surprised with the outcome." When the coach of our student-athletes is the source of such a defeatist, then sore-loser, attitude. I am not surprised at the outcome or that it spurred letters such as Mr. Ertz's.

What we "should" be teaching our stu-

dent-athletes, Mr. Ertz, is that hard work, and disciplined execution of anything, can bring you to the "championship game" in any endeavor — and that winning — even habitually winning - does not make you a bully. It makes you, and the team you are a part of, champions. Congratulations Pan thers Lt Col Dave Mork

Yokota Air Base, Japan

Amerasians let down by U.S.

I'm pleased to see that Stars and Stripes is giving long-overdue coverage to the subject of Amerasians, children fathered by American soldiers ("Charity struggles to meet mission to aid Amerasians," by Teri Weaver, Nov. 28). There are many thousands of Amerasians still in Southeast Asia, where Uncle Sam abandoned them after the Vietnam War. In 1994 and '95, I adopted two Thai Amerasian orphans.

According to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation office in Bangkok, there are 5,000-to-8,000 Amerasian orphans still left in Thailand, where the United States had more than 10 military bases to support actions in Vietnam. They are now from 30 to 40 years old. Many thousands of other Amerasians were abandoned in Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, Korea and elsewhere

It is a national disgrace that we plan in advance the abandonment of these orphans in status of forces agreements. It is our American national shame that we do not provide the money for food, housing, education or health care for these children of American citizens. It is unbelievable that we ask for donations afterward to provide a few crumbs.
I'm not surprised that Kim Paul "doesn't

like to be interviewed or to have his picture - are you? Teri Weaver is to be com mended for publicizing the plight of children left behind by American GIs.

Mark C. Goniwiecha

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury





SECRETARY OF TOADY





OPINION

U.S. pays for U.N.'s mistakes in many ways

he horse manure is piled higher than ever, and it stinks to high heav-

But despite all the evidence to the contrary, many of us still think there must be a pony in there

Jack Kelly



somewhere. The lingering support for the United Nations among Americans is a triumph of hope over experience. The U.N. was (largely) the brainchild of American liberals, who thought that if only the nations of the world had a place where they could talk out their dif-

sorts of other bad stuff.

This didn't work so well with the League of Nations, founded after World War I to end all wars, but learning from experience is not something liberals do much of

It wasn't long before our creation bit us in

We want the United Nations to promote world neace But for most of the U.N.'s members today, the primary purpose of the organization is to place shackles on American

When a nation is as powerful as ours, it's understandable that the Lilliputians would feel that they have a common interest in restraining Gulliver. What isn't so understandable is why the United States should contin-ue to host, and (largely) pay for, an organization that has made frustrating us its raison

Most of us would put up with a lot of frustration if it would lead to less violence, hun ger, poverty and disease in the world. But the U.N. today doesn't do what we imagined it would do back in those heady, idealistic

Consider the U.N.'s role in resolving the current political crisis in Ukraine. What role, you ask? Precisely.

Tens of thousands of African villagers in the Darfur region of Sudan are being murdered by Arabs, with the complicity of the Sudanese government. What is the U.N. doing about it? Just what it is doing to resolve the political crisis in the Ukraine

But it could be said that the Ukrainians and the Sudanese in Darfur are more fortunate than those poor souls who have re-ceived U.N. "help" in the past. U.N. peacekeepers idly watched genocide in Rwanda, and actually facilitated it in Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers in the Congo are known best for sexually molesting women under their "protection

"protection."

The U.N.'s Oil for Food program has become the biggest financial scandal in the history of the world. With the complicity of U.N. officials — including the son of Secretary-General Kofi Annan sein took at least \$21 billion that was meant to provide food and medicine for poor Iragis and spent it on palaces, weapons, rewards for terrorists and bribes for Security Council members France, Germany and Russia.

Oil for Food is the mother of all U.N. financial scandals, but is hardly the first. In a 1995 paper, Stefan Halper of the Cato Institute described the organization as "a mias-ma of corruption." Former U.N. aid workers Kenneth Cain, Heidi Postlewait and Andrew Thomson describe how the U.N. "helps" people in their book "Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures." With the United Nations, the difficulty is not in finding corruption; it's finding a U.N. program that isn't awash in it.

Hope is losing ground to experience. In a recent poll, 60 percent of Americans said the U.N. is doing "a poor job."

Kofi Annan is aware he has a public rela-



tions problem. He appointed a commission of big shots to recommend reforms. The High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change will make its report Thursday.

The panel will say that the U.N. must condemn all terror attacks on civilians or lose its moral authority, the London Telegraph said Monday.

This won't sit well with the kleptocrats who control the General Assembly. They've blocked for years a comprehensive U.N. convention on terrorism on the grounds that it should exclude groups fighting "occupa-tion" or "colonialism," and likely will do so We shouldn't stand for it. If the U.N. con-

tinues to turn its back on reform, we should

We hold the high cards. The U.N. cannot survive without our financial contribution (22 percent of its total budget). And few in the U.N. bureaucracy would relish relinquishing the ambience of New York for the

delights of, say, Zimbabwe.

A U.N. that actually would promote liber ty, democracy and human rights would be eminently worthwhile. But no U.N. at all would be an improvement over the one we've got now.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Until U.S. pays as it goes, dollar will keep dropping

leaders of 20 Asian and Pacific nations last week, he wanted to talk about North Korea and Iran. But those nations had another security

crisis on their minds -Daniel Sneider the fall of the dollar.



The dollar is now down to nine-year lows and there are jitters about a financial crisis If foreign lenders lose confidence, they could trigger a freefall collapse of the dollar. As the cost of imports rise, inflation could jump. And interest rates for banks and buyers would home soar as investors demand a higher return for

their greater risk. scenario is probably overdrawn. But the dollar's drop reflects the belief that the American economy is not healthy.

The signs of illness are two huge and grov ing imbalances — the federal budget deficit and the current account deficit, the shortfall between what America takes in from the world through trade and investment and what it spends. In 1990 the global balance stood at zero. Now the United States is \$665 billion in the hole.

President Bush made soothing noises at the Asian Pacific economic summit about the commitment to a "strong dollar." But investors correctly read the signals that the actual policy is to let markets drive down the value of the dollar in an orderly way.

The administration sees dollar devalua-

tion as a way to correct a global imbalance. It will make American exports cheaper and more competitive and imports more expensive for American consumers. They are confident the United States remains an attractive place for the world to park its money. Those currencies that trade freely (the

euro, Canadian dollar, British pound and, lately, the Japanese yen) have gone up rapidly in value against the dollar in the last few weeks. The one major trading partner that has escaped so far is China, whose currency is fixed to the value of the dollar. The Chinese want to keep their exports cheap but American pressure may force a small revaluation of its currency.

Our trading partners are unhappy about the dollar's slide. But this is needed correction. The danger is the fall will encourage countries to reduce their dollar holdings, shifting to euros, gold or Japanese stocks

The problem for the United States is that those dollars are now financing our huge budget deficit, which will hit \$450 billion this year. The administration has been unwilling to ask Americans to pay for the war on terror and the war in Iraq.

The twin deficits are driven in part by the growing difference between what Americans spend and what they earn. American savings - both household, corporate and, of course, government savings - have deteriorated greatly in the last five years. Instead we borrow money abroad. ...
The Chinese, emboldened by the reality

that we depend on their dollars, now happily lecture us on our profligate ways. ...
It is true that Americans consume more

than they produce. But we can keep doing it.

up to a point, because the folks we import from (mostly, but not entirely, in Asia) are happy to produce more than they consume and to lend us money to buy their stuff. 'We are stuck with each other — they are

the lenders of last resort and we are the consumers of last resort," says Robert Madsen, senior fellow at MIT's Center for Internation al Studies and an expert on Asian econo-mies. "If they stopped lending we would have a lot of trouble. If we stopped consuming, they would go into recession

Ultimately America needs to reduce a dangerous dependency on foreign lenders. The only way to do that is to save more and to pay for what we spend on our ourselves and

Daniel Sneider is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

There are no exact aspects to speak of in the heavens today, and that is, in and of itself, remarkable. It's an opportunity for viewing a million shades of gray Holiday Mathis in the spectrum between black and white. Since we

can never really know what it's like to experience life as someone else, extending the benefit of the doubt is the natural thing to do.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 1). This year finally highlights an under-rated area of your life

 fun and recreation Social breakthroughs in the next five weeks get you participating in new circles and interests. Dates and business contacts spring from your playtime. Sock away some of the extra money you make for travel in the spring. Long love is featured with Pisces and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You and a colleague have substan tial differences, but you cannot deny your admiration. Be sure to acknowledge others for their contributions

and your way is made easier. Tonight, challenge someone to take TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The world is not black and white. But you do need to make choices in life, and sometimes, the choices

have obvious consequences. Desen sitizing yourself to the minutiae will make doing what you have to do easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be in a position to say something meaningful. Choosing the exact right words will be key. Other wise, your subjects miss the point. At work, do your research, and make sure vou're not raising a moot point.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

What you've got is terrific. Admire it! Praise it! Cherish it! Avoid thinking about the great job/date/apartment you didn't get. There will always be another better job/date/apartment that you don't have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A

contribution you'd like to make may feel very, very small indeed. You may even be embarrassed and

therefore tempted to not even bother to do it. But do it anyway. Small gestures are what make your character so remarkable

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The step you've been thinking of taking can be achieved. Look hard

at your beliefs about money. The fastest way to improve your income is to seek work that gives you a greater sense of numose.

LIBRA (Sept.

23-0ct. 23). You're a fair leader, but your leadership will be challenged nonetheless. You'll be dealing with a strong-willed significant

other, stepchild or parent. Gain control of your emotions, and keep your focus on the problem at

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Other people's dreams seem outra-

geous, but don't laugh - and if anyone else laughs, spring to the dreamer's defense. People who don't have dreams don't have much. By the end of the day, you'll believe in love at first sight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). You know those questions you've been asking other people? Well, it's time to pose the same questions to yourself. You may just be surprised how smart you can be when talking to an intellectual equal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Keep fun on the to-do list, and don't let it take the bottom slot. In fact, what do you think would hap pen if you put fun first? You just might wind up enjoying your work so much that you've never been so productive in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're aiming for should be obvious to everyone around you and, of course, to yourself. Verbalize your goal. You may have to futz with the wording or the thrust of it for a while until it's perfectly clear to

evervone. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your partner's needs and your own could polarize now. Stay calm. The stars nurture your thought processes and help you tap into your unconscious mind for solutions. Also, a

Libra can help you find the compro-Creators Syndicate

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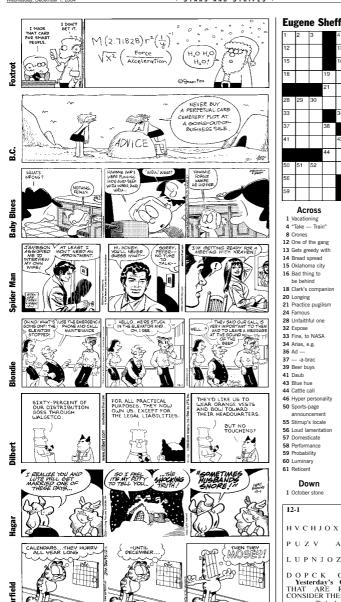








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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- 2 Gradually disappear 3 Imperfection
- 4 Ancient Greek poet
- 5 Polloi preceder
- 6 Early bird?
- 8 Rub elbows

7 Wan

11 Fa-la link

17 X rating

19 Practitioner

22 Old Testament

23 Archaeologist's

25 Bath powder

26 Actor Estrada

prophet

find

(Suff.)

- (with)
- 9 Carte lead-in 38 Caravan pack 10 Solidify
- 35 Splash everywhere 40 Whatever amount
 - 42 Caviar

27 Socialist Eugene

29 Dennis Rodman

28 Surveillance

nickname

30 Tom Joad, e.g.

31 Theater name

of old

- 45 Makes a decision
- 47 Pod dwellers
- 48 Aniece
- 49 Bohemian
- 50 Seesaw quorum
- 51 Swindled
- 52 Disencumber
- 53 Nosh
- 54 "I Camera"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

s	L	Α	М		0	В	0	ш		С	0	Ρ
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CRYPTOQUIP

LSPCSZXZ GSDIX

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LUPNJOZ. XIJN'OJ AVXI

GPZXJOZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO INDIVIDUALS HAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equal S

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argi

That's it! No more

chocolate or

第3種郵便物認可

Dear Abby

Someone lying in messy proposal

Dear Abby: My name is "Lenny" and I live in Florida. About six weeks ago, my girlfriend, "Jill," and I broke

Jill is 20 and I am 41. She was adopted by her parents as an infant

Jill and her folks moved to Illinois, but we talk on the phone at least three times a week. I proposed marriage but Jill said she couldn't make the decision without her father's approval. Her mother was all for it: her father was

Jill says that when her parents adopted her, her father put a clause in the contract that he had the right to choose the man she was to marry - and it was signed by a judge in the state of Illi nois. Is this legal?

- Frustrated in Florida

Dear Frustrated: No, it's not. Either Jill is lying to you, or

Dear Abby: I have eight siblings. I am the only one who is still single. My brothers and sisters are upstanding members of their communities, happily

married and raising beautiful families Until a few years

ago, we all got together for the holidays. Now that the children are here — 20 at last count - my sibs pre fer to spend the holidays in their own homes with their families. We get together a couple of weeks before Christmas to exchange

I'd love to spend the day with family, and I'm hoping they will see this letter and think of me.

- All Alone in Maryland Dear All Alone: And what if

they happen to be too busy to read the column today? Your siblings aren't mind readers, so

if an invitation isn't forthcoming, make plans for the Christmas holiday with close friends or volunteer at a shelter

Dear Abby: I'm 11 and in sixth grade. I recently caught a girl in my class copying off my paper. When I asked her not to, she denied doing it.

I told the teacher then, and the teacher replied, "She is having trouble with her work and per sonal problems at home. Just imagine if this math was hard for

vou The girl has ADHD. Should I continue to let this girl copy me? - Student in Phoenix

Dear Student: No, you should not. Because if you do, a girl who is already having trouble with math will never learn how to solve the problems herself.

Letters for this column — with your — should be Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words. **MEWNO** ©2004 Tribune Media All Rights Reserved SQUET

NESING

Unscramble these four Jumbles.

BOCIXE Now arrange the circled letters to

Answer:

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: KETCH CRAFT TYCOON BATHER What the landlord did when the furnace failed - TOOK THE "HEAT"

SHE WENT ON

DIET BECAUSE

Family abuse revelation shocking

Dear Annie: Do you think ostriches are emotionally healthy? I ask because I want to hide my head in a hole

I come from a family with five adult children Dad passed away a few years back, and, as I write this, Mom has been in the hospital for a month. Her hospitalization has caused an awkward reunification of the siblings.

During a lengthy phone call with my younger sister, she revealed that she and my youngest brother were repeatedly sexu-ally abused by my oldest brother. Although I urged her to seek professional help, I am having difficulty digesting this 40-year-old information

My relationship with my older brother hasn't been good for

(He was a Vietnam vet, and I was a war protester.) Still, I always respected and looked up to him. Now, I feel the big brother I once loved is a sham.

I live in another state with a wonderful husband and two great



children. I want to wash my hands of the lot of my siblings and the dirty family secrets they have kept. My mother, however, wants her family around her. I don't think she is aware of my brother's incestuous behavior, and if she did know, I suspect she put it away somewhere deep in the recesses of

her memor Should I keep up appearances until my mother passes on (which could be in 10 years or 10 minutes)? This goes

against every grain of my being. Should I confront my brother? - Disillusioned Sister

Dear Sister: If you are 100 percent certain that your sister's accusations are true, you should confront your brother. But don't

blame your other siblings for what happened. It is unfair to estrange them all because you are angry with one. And it would be self-serving and hurtful to create a family rift while your mother is hospitalized

Dear Annie: I would like to

comment on your advice to "Freakin' Out in Philly," who resented that her parents left the family business to her brothers. She sounds like a victim of her

own making.

If the sisters really want a piece of the business, why don't they act like businesswomen and approach their brothers about investing or becoming partners, instead of harassing their elderly parents about fairness? Parents often base such decisions on who they think would be most likely to carry on the business in the spirit in which it was created. Obviously, the sons oing a good job if their wives and children are bragging about "living the good life." This woman needs to find a way to respect her

parents' decision - Wife of an Inheritor Dear Wife: Your perspective has merit. Thanks for writing

nas merri. I manks for writing.
Annie's Mallhox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
Please e-mail your questions to
anniesmailbox@comeast.net, or write
to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Synt
cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700,
Los Angeles, CA 50045,

Family Circus



"A, E, I, O and U are vowels and the other letters are continents.

12.71



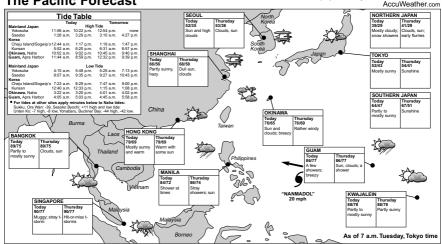
SORRY, SPORT "SORRY, SPORT... I CAN"T ARREST A GIRL JUST FOR TALKING TOO MUCH."





The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Partly sunny, high 55, low 49. Saturday: Showers, high 64, low 53

KADENA

Friday: Showers, high 76, low 69. Saturday: Rain, high 76, low 67

SEOUL

Friday: Showers, high 53, low 35. Saturday: Showers high 53, low 30.

MANILA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 74. Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 74.

HAGATNA

Friday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 77. Saturday: Partly sunny, high 88. low 77.

Monday's USA Temperatures

HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
31/18	Los Angeles	65/40
30/17	Little Rock	55/46
40/25	Louisville	49/43
55/38	Miami	82/68
52/30	Milwaukee	39/28
68/52	Nashville	58/46
39/15	New York	52/36
35/21	Omaha	33/20
50/32	Orlando	79/58
87/67	Philadelphia	52/35
40/32	Phoenix	56/34
39/25	Pittsburgh	44/32
64/45	Portland, OR	44/38
59/38	Portland, ME	49/28
44/32	Salt Lake City	31/14
44/34	St. Louis	43/38
29/16	San Antonio	79/44
49/23	San Diego	65/42
52/28	San Juan	85/74
33/14	Tampa	81/60
44/36	Tulsa	49/34
75/53	Washington	53/37
37/27	Wichita	36/26
	31/18 30/17 40/25 55/38 52/30 68/52 39/15 50/32 87/67 40/32 39/25 64/38 44/32 44/34 49/16 49/23 52/28 33/14 44/35	31/18 Los Angeles 30/17 Little Rock 40/25 Louisville 53/34 Marine 68/52 Nashwite 50/32 Orange 50/32 Orange 50



U.S. Extended Forecast

A low pressure system moving into the Ohio Valley on Wednesday will bring showers and thunderstorms from West Virginia southward into eastern Louisiana. This system will also spread rain across much of the Northeast early in the day. As the cold front associated with this system moves east in the afternoon, cold air behind it will produce flurries or light snow throughout New England, western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. Another low pressure system moving down from the Rockies will produce flurries and light snow across the mountains of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. Thursday will be a bit quieter across the nation with the exception of some flurries or light snow in Minnesota.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY H	IIGH/LOW	
Bangkok	89/75	lwakuni	62/46	Sasebo NB	63/49	Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	48/42	Kabul	51/21	Nairobi	79/54	
Beijing	49/39	Kadena AB	76/65	Sapporo	39/29	Athens	62/52	Buenos Aires	90/68	Kiev	32/31	New Delhi	77/47	
Camp Casey	54/32	Kunsan AB	55/40	Seoul	52/35	Auckland	70/58	Cairo	74/51	Kuwait	67/43	Oslo	41/31	
Christchurch	66/45	Kwajalein	88/78	Shanghai	66/56	Baghdad	64/37	Cancun	83/68	London	45/38	Paris	40/34	
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	84/72	Singapore	90/77	Barbados	83/68	Cape Town	75/51	Madrid	49/32	Rio de Janeiro	72/60	
Hagatna	86/77	Misawa AB	42/32	Sydney	86/61	Barcelona	52/45	Geneva	40/38	Mexico City	72/46	Rome	55/46	
Hanoi	79/64	Osan	53/33	Taegu	58/36	Berlin	44/32	Istanbul	55/46	Montreal	35/30	St. Petersburg	33/29	
Hong Kong	79/69	Perth	76/60	Taipei	76/63	Bermuda	75/66	Jerusalem	61/43	Mogadishu	87/74	Stockholm	41/33	
Honolulu	84/72	Pusan	58/43	Tokyo	52/43	Brussels	39/32	Johannesbur	g 84/56	Moscow	21/16	Warsaw	45/35	



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military/family readership. Pacific Stars and Stripes has the right to return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication.

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Appliances 025

Name

Foster, Oknawa - Step up step down transformer makes power "clean" by converting Japanese voltage to American. We paid \$60 you pay \$45 OBO used only 5 m on this . E m a li rehekahmichael78 @hotmail 178.0 com or call 646-6838.

Kadena - 2 Whirlpool Dehumidi-fiers with front bucket. Brand new each was \$150. Only asking \$50 each. Run well. Like 2000 watt transformer. | \$60. Please call

Kadena, Okinawa - Carpet steam cleaner, works well. Has bare floor attachment and up-holstery attachments. \$75.00 obo. Darla 633-0557.

Kadena, Okinawa - Humidifier. Like new. \$60.00 OBO. Call Todd or Linda 633-6737 Kadena, Okinawa - Oyster Food Steamer used only once Like New in box \$35.00 Call Craig

633-3804.

Kadena, Okinawa - Sanyo Mi-crowave. Black color. Turn knob style. Works great, we bought a bigger one. \$20.00 OBO Call Darla at 633-0958 If not home,

please leave a message. Kadena, Okinawa - Shark Blast Steam Cleaner for hard surface areas - works great on multiplex floors and bathhubs. \$50.00 obo. Call 633-0076.

Kadena, Okinawa - Two Pelonis space heaters for sale. \$25.00 each or two for \$40. Used only a few months while living off base. Call 633-1599.

Kadena, Okinawa - Whirlpool portable dishwasher; Black with portable dishwasher; Black with a control of the season of the seaso

Kadena, Okinawa - White micro-wave: Only used a year. PCSing back to states and no longer need, in perfect condi-tion. \$45.00 obo. Call 633-0076 or 633-1599.

conditioner, large-capacity el. \$75.00. Call 225-2094.

Video Kadena - VHS kid's movies for sale. Most are Disney movies. Too many to list. Email msrrosser@yahoo.com for a list. Asking \$5 OBO.

General Manager

1020

Lt Col Dan Todd, USAF Commander

Miscellaneous 1040 good shape. \$ 622-8470 or silvio 6 atti.net

Foster, Okinawa - Miracle Blade knife set with butcher block \$75.00 call 646-4618 or email okinutz@oasis.mediatti.net Foster, Okinawa - Red Futon bought at Jusco, excellent con-dition \$70. 30 gal first hard. Idlanck Oscar, med size, miscella-neous food, care kit \$90, Selling reasonable price, or both for \$150. Call Liz at 65-3042/43 or cell 090 9783 13767. Email elzawar01@yahoo.com

Foster, Okinawa - Wooden Thomasville bunk bed set. Set can come apart and be two single beds. Great condition. \$100.00 or OBO. Black glide rocksr/recliner wiottoman. Great condition. \$100.00 OBO. While pool dehumidiller. Good condipool dehumidifier. Good condi-tion. \$25.00 Contact Debbie at 646-8213.

Kadena - Nautilus Aerobic cycle AR,500 asking 150, JVC Digital Still Camera/400X zoom/memo-ry card (video) 150 (new), s/m women's 2 place (new), s/m wet sulfs 100, solid marble fountain. 395-5043

Kadena, Okinawa - Fantom canister, bag-less vacuum cleaner with 2 extra filtiess (used for 2 months) \$75.00 and Costoo folding banquet table, Lucite top, unused still in box \$55.00 Call 633-4452 or e-mail: dalejrië oasis.mediatti.net

Kadena, Okinawa - I want to sell my Candles: E-mail Jeannine for pictures and prices @ cool_crawford1@yahoo.com, or give me a call @ 633-3144. Kinser, Okinawa - I have a very large Disney snow globe bought in New York. A few small area's chipped from plane ride. Costs \$125, asking for \$60 obo. Contact 637/3787 or email angelicbaby623@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan 3-story cak dollhouse with accessories, Bratz/My Scene, fire trucks, military toys, Zoljiushi 10-cup rice cooker, Oster blenderboas-ter, phones, DVD, CDs, VHS, and much more. Call 227-3839. Yokota, Japan - Children's cloth-ing and toys, computer items, household items including dishes and cooking ware, call for details, 227-3839.

Yokota, Japan - Nikken PiMag Aqua Pour Water Filtration System: like new, \$100.00. Call 227-3473.

Vokota, Japan - Vtech (2431) 2.4 cordiess phones, includes one base with phone, 2 addition-al head sets, \$150; Jenson 900 MHz Wireless head phone, \$25; 18V Cordiess drill, \$25; BOSE AM5, \$400, and AM-7, \$550; black oval table with 4-chairs \$50; Mini JVC 3-CD/Cassette with xpoaker, \$45. Call 227-2425. U468-96-4425.
Yokota - 1995 Toyota Vista:
4-doors, silver, excellent condi-tion, power windows and looks, A/C, CD player, JCI until February 2005. \$2,500.00 OBO. Call 227-7749.

Autos for Sale - Japan

Angel Motors-Specializing, in USA Spec (LHD) Modelst Use in Japan or ship to the USA American owned 8 operated car experience. Contect Mise for more detailst fet 000-0019-8372 com Web Size: www.angelmo-torsjapan.com. Assigi = 91 Mazdis MPV, Rurs great, needs some work. JCI 5450-680-6. Call Tim or Debble at 267-6234.

ASSYCHAN

GOOD, and ORDIZZY 16 DO

OSCIDIATION

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email chavez 19 8 hotmail com Sagamihara - 1995 Mitsubish PVR, Power windows, power door looks, AMFRI CD Pacciner with Remote, ACHeas, 8-645 Iom, JC Lintil August 2005, Geneal cested, contact Crystal at 267-6249 (home), 08055055221 (cell) or email cmclawhornhot-mail.com

\$450000 E-mair: waisnjer-ry@cnfj.navy.mil or call 080.5084.1383 Yokosuka - 92 Nissan Sunny, JCI until 8/05. 60k, runs well, good car for commuting. \$400. Call Bill at 046 842 6267

Yokosuka - 94 Nissan Skyline, 2.5GTS Turbo. Charcoal Grey, 4 door. Great condition, well main-tained. 17* tites, rice stereo with 6 disc CD changer and much more. \$2,900 OBD. Call Joe at 0469-96-4425.

Autos for Sale - Japan

токовика - 95 Honda Odyssey. Silver, chrome rims, body kit. JCl due Oct 2005. Great looking van, great condition. Asking \$4000 OBO. em a i1: miho.atd @ezweb.ne.jp ph#: попярязвае

Vokota- 1994 Toyota Landcruis-er VX-LTD (Gas), 3 inch sus-pension III, 5 custom rimsfires with 5 stock rimsfirms and suspension, JCI 30 Sept 05, Pront/Hear AC/Heat, 88,500 OBO, call 08032721140 or 0425383780

Autos for Sale - Korea

lean, SLI until Augest 2006, Goste al.

Control Contro Oran - NEED TO SELL NOW

148

Yongsan - 2002 Ford F150 XLT Longbed Pick-up truck: 4XA, FX4 Offitoad package, Camper shell, Dark Blue Metallic, 35K miles, 54 liter V-8 Auto, ABS, AC, Tilheheel, Captains chairs, PW, PDL, CC, AMPH Cass- 6 disc CD, Excellent condition, runs & drives great. \$25K 0 1 0 - 4 7 2 3 - 2 1 5 5K

Yongsan - 2003 Toyota Camri LE, Blue Metallic, 21K miles, 2-1 liter 4 cyl, Auto, ABS, AC Tiltwheel, PW, PDL, CC, AM/FN Cass CD, Excellent car. \$17K 0 1 0 - 4 7 2 3 - 2 1 5 7 mv69superhee@hotmail.com Autos for Sale - Korea

Yongsan - Marcon 1992 Volvo 940 Turbo Sedan: 4-doors, excellent condition, leather, power evenything, A/C, heated seats, automatic trans, stereo, ski rack, blike rack, alsem, many extras. \$4,900.00 OBO. Call Ron, 774-8385.

Autos for Sale - Okinawa

AWASE - Sunny Nissan, 1995 4dr, Runs Great, all automatic, clean & comfortable, Non Smok-ers, Super cold A/C, JCI 09-05, Must seel \$2,000 OBO. Call & leave message 935-2415

Butler, Okinawa - Need to sell right now a very good car AMFM/CD radio very cold ac asking \$350 JCI is do this month please call ray or lashawn at 622-8390. Courtney - 1991 Toyota Lite Ace van JCl Aug/06. Cold A/C. Runs great. \$1500.00. Available now. 622-8351

622-8351

Courtney - 1991 Toyota Surf excellent condition. White with brand new 31 tires never been driven off road. JCI 02/05. Call 964-4324 \$4000.00 OBO. Courtney - 1991 Toyota Town Ace: Excellent condition. Brand new front brakes, cold A/C, CD player wire more. Still has 8 months left on JCI, PCSing must sell. 82,500.00 obo. Call home: 622-8354 or work: 622-7790 (SSgt Allen).

GSGg Allen)

Courtney - 1992 Pajero SportBlue, Turbo, Automatic, AC,
20H, 4WD, Diesel, New Stereo
wCD player, now water pump a
timing belt, new trates. Grey
lent condition, 2GI until May,
2006 only asking \$3000 OBO
Please call Ennace or Tern at 622-6581.

Courtney, 1993 Toyota Mark II,
dark metallic green, excellent
condition. Eard new few-

Courtney - 1995 Toyota Carina ED. Red with grey Interior. Dark tinted windows, cold A/C, 10 disc changer. 85,000 klometers. JCI due April 2006 asking \$2900. Call 622-8329 or Cell 090-6861-4540

090-6861-4540
Courtney • 92' Honda Ascott Good condition. Has los cold AC, power windows and locks, Kerwood CD player, wired for amp and speakers, new spark plugs and wires, great on gas. JCI due April 2006. S200 OBO Call 622-8469 or 090-5933-1358 Courtney - 94 Mitsubishi Delica: Dark Blue/Gray, 4-wide doors, and seats 8, Turbo Diesel. Front & rear A/C. \$4,000. 622-5285 or 090-6864-4980

Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152

Grey, Cold AIC, Power Windows, CD Player, Seats 7, Good Condition. JCI until May 2006. \$1,100.00 obo. Call John at 645-6221.

Foster - 1992 Honda Ascot: Silver, 4 doors, dependable with AC/heater new CD player and speakers, JCI good until July 2005 asking \$2000 or best offer. Call GYSG1 Scott 646-2220 or 292-2949 Call GYSGT Scott 646-2220 or 623-3342. Foster - 1992 RX-7: \$4,500 silver, twin turbo, fast, wing, leather interior, auto call 646-4287.

Foster - 1993 Hilux Surf: Runs great, Cold A/C, JCI until 2005 Electric windows and locks \$3,500.00 obo Call 645-6221 or 090 6864 3134.

000 6864 3134.

Foster - 1993 silver Skyline asking \$1.800.00 GBO, (Flexible) JCI until April 2005. I can JCI to Inologer. New tires, CD player, A/C. Must drive to appreciate. VERY Relable. Clean interior. PCS'ing and must sell. jimmelSt-6llyahou.com or call 646-5404 for more information.

call 646-5404 for more informa-tion.

Faster - 1993 Toyota Lite Ace PXV Limited: JCI until Jun 2006. Windowsfookenimersium-odfstast. Backing and clearance scnar. Just got another vehicle and have to get rid of this on. Call Troy (W) 645-3614 or (H) 935-4117.

Foster - 1994 Honda Prelude: H22A DOHC VTEC with 5spd, great car with ice cold AC and JCI good until Oct. OS. Nice wheels and new tres. Perfect paint, body, and interior Call BJ at (H) 646-4868 or (W) 645-0435 Must Sell! \$3,500 OBO

Foster - 1994 silver Skyline asking \$2000 OBO. JCI until March 2005. Mow lires, CD player, Cold A/IC. clean intentor, must drive to appreciate, very enlable. Solid CAR Leaving and m u st sell. Em all kbythe@konnect.net for pictures or call 646-4050.

tures or call 646-4050.

Foster - 1994 Toyota Curren: Silver, clean and in good condition. Need to sell. \$2,000.00 OBO. Call 646-2135. SZU00.00 GBO: Call 646-2135.
Foster - 1995 Toyota Curren:
Silver in color, new tires and
engine work, full Zyears of JCI
once I sign over, automatic,
asking \$800 and take over
payments. If interested contact
me at 646 3041 or
hemshrotki@koki10.med.navy.mil

Hansen - 90 black Nissan Skyline. PCSing prior to Dec 18th. Great car, hood is faded. Runs great \$1,500.00 or obo. Contact and leave message Jackie 965-4618 or Matt 623-5921. homehotelde diel II medi navy mit 19th. utilität och 200 a. 8000.
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Autos for Sale Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152 - Okinawa

Foster - 91 Toyota Carina JCI Sept 05, cold A/C, 4-door automatic, AM/FM cassette, power windows, great shape. Available last week of Dec. \$1,000 OBO. Call 645-3107 Kadena - 1988 Toyota Cresta: JCI good to April 2006, new brakes/tires, excellent mechani-cal condition, perfect for work. Contact Mark at 634-7865. Kadena - 1989 Toyota Hi-Ace: JCl until May 2006, dual sun-roof, tinted, new tires, new AC, automatic, power all, built-in ref, 10-seater: \$1,800.00 OBO Call Joey at 633-6759. Foster - 93 Toyota Surf for: \$2,000.00 OBO. 5-speed, sur-roof, CD player with 10-disk changer, runs great, green in color. JCI until September 2005.

Clork, Uil until September 2006.

Glori until September 2006.

Gadena - 1990 EXV: White, JCI
6 45 - 8.3 9 5 / 8 6 5 3 or
domandessence@holmail.com

Foster - 94 Silvia turbo has
brand new S14 turbine, Bitt:
B.U., 4 Gauges, both driver
339959. Softmanosserios en normal Loon
Footer - 94 Silvia tutro has
brand new S14 tutribine, Bitts
B.O.V. 4 Gauges, both driver
and passenger sides have Bride
seats, Bomser from bumper with
seats, Bomser from bumper with
line rims, ARC air box, very cold
ac and CD player JCl due July
2005 asking \$5,000 obe please
call 646-2013 or email
butter.

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New JCI (Aug 2006) \$1,000.00 OBO. Call Joey at 646-8680 or

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JCI: 06/2006 \$3500 090. Turbo
Diesel, Automatic, AMFM Cas-sette, Cold Air Conditioning,
Turbo Timer, Power Steeling,
Power Windows, Rear Window
Wiper, Timed Windows, In Ex-Wiper, Timed Windows, In Ex-Wiper, Timed Windows, In Ex-Steeling Condition of the Condition of the Condi-graph of the Condition of the Co

ka3-9859. Kadena - 1990 Mitsubishi Deli-ca: Power window, power lock, AlC front and rear, 4-wide door, JCI good until June of 2006. Stereo with amplifier, subwooler and CD player. \$2,500. OBO Please call 633-5707 Need to

152

Kadena - 1991 Suzuki Escudo. Great SUV (\$3000 I JCI). (\$2500 you JCI). ICE COLD. A/C. 40Pf., 4WD, automatic, CD/stereo, 94km, JCI Jan 05. PCS in December. Call: Eric 633-9171. e m a II:

Kadena - 1991 Toyota Corona \$1200 OBO. ICE COLD A/C. \$1200 OBO. ICE COLD A/C.
4DR, automatic, sunroof,
CD/stereo, 87km, JCl til Feb 06.
PCS in December. Calt. Eric
6 3 3 - 9 1 7 1, e m a II:
ejhaas15@hotmail.com.

** and the state of the state o

Kadena - 1992 Nissan Prairie: Teal green color, Good runner, cold A/C, power windows, power steering, Automatic transmis-sion. New tune-up. Seats up to 7 persons, MP3 player, JCI due

Futerma - 1993 Honda Prelude, black, clean, good engine, pow-er windowsicolas, JCI good until April 2006, \$2,700 or best offer email Mark McInturff macmointurff@yahoo.com or call (W) 636-3679, celt: 090-8449-3623. Kadena - 1992 Nissan Silvia, JCI Mar 06, 5 speeds, runs great, CD player \$1,100.00 call 633-6013 or email Kadena - 1992 Toyota Aristo:
Must Seel Fully loaded to
include 18' chrome wheels,
back up sensors; remote start
alarm and JCI good thru August
2006, asking \$6,000 or Best
Offer. If you would like more
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Emai meyers@casis.mediatti.net. For picture \$100.00 firm. Cal 645-4277 @ OCONUS Kadena, Okinawa - Have some Kadena, Okinawa - Have some 5 1/4* Rocklord Fosgate speak-ers as well as some 6 1/2* 3-watt speaker by Kerwood for sale. \$20.00 a piece. I also have a 150-watt alpha sonic amp for only \$30.00. Call 632-3157 or 090-1179-3493. 490 Kadena - 1998 Toylota (Chevy) Cavaller 224: Red, Power win-dows, sunroof, 12 Disc CD changer, Leather, New brake-shaftery, cold A/C. JCI good until Feb 05. Call 633-6683. \$4,500.00 OBO. 645-4277 Foster, Okinawa - Green color antique looking table lamp with cream color shade (nice) \$20 Contact Grace at 646-5282 (leave a message). \$2000 motorcycle keys were found next to building 102 at Camp Zama on Oct. 23. To identify the keys and/or the tag to claim, call 269-6294 or 263-7346 or e-mail jay.walker@zama.army.mil until Feb 05. Call 633-6683. 4,500.00 OBC. 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Please call 633-1029 o r e m a i l firekracker03 @yahoo.com very nice and have new beer used. Call Marie at 633-6641 or Courtney - Queen size sleeper sofa and loveseat for sale. Tan/Taupe with leaf pathern, No smoking/No pets.—\$475 OBO. Camp Courtney 622-8399 NOV 22 - DEC 22 STRETCH condition, Please call 633-1029 or a le 11 stekracker03 6/yshoo.com "Votota, Japan, BMACT 364, Management, S50, BMAT 380, Business Law Today 560, BMAT 482, Business Law Today 560, BMAT 482, Business Law Coday 560, BMAT 482, Business Law Coday 560, BMAT 482, Business Law Coday Covernation of the Communication, S40, COVIM-390, Management Communication, S40, GVPT 401, Understanding International Conflictation, S40, GVPT 401, Understanding International Conflictation Camp Courtney 62:8599 Fotor: Oksawa - 3 picco smoke glass (2 end, 1 center) tables in good condition \$100.00 clob. Black leather message only 2 me. 100.00 clob. Black leather message only 2 mine \$150.00 clob. Black leather message only 2 mine \$150.00 clob. Call Arda 646-4875 after \$5.00 pm or chicatejena/2002 layhoo. com Footer, Chirawa - Custom made Cale Entertainment center 3 picces. holds up to a 48in T.V. March 100 clob. Entertainment center 3 picces. holds up to a 48in T.V. March 100 clob. Place available VCH/DVD cutouts and storage below. \$500.00 Places available VCH/DVD cutouts and storage below. \$500.00 Places available victoria with doors. March 100 clob. \$100.00 places available colors. \$100.00 places avail ning automatic, JCI until Sep-iember 2006. Interested, need to see pictures, call me or email me at emiliolord1@yahoo.com or call at 632-3181 ask for Kadena, Okinawa - HENN WORKSHOPS MAGAZINE WORKSHOPS MAGAZINE BASKET, swing handle, wooden bottom & wooden feet fold over blue fabric liner & padded lid with oil-stained knob. 14X9X11 cost \$147 now only \$75 to first caller. Call Marie at 633-6441 or Kadena, Okinawa - Window Tint-Dark Smoke, 24 Inches x 6.5 Feet. Bought in USA Enough to tint a van. 3 boxes NEWI \$10.00 each. Call 6.33-15.09 or email we3cows@oasis.mediatti.net your dollars with exclusive coupons and discounts! 600+ merchants pre-screened and rated for APO/FPO service & shipping Yokota, Japan - Five tires and rims for Hilux Surf, \$450 OBO. Call 227-9032. Kadena, Okinawa - I have two packages of sports theme winvisit us at ww.oconus.com for details! Osan - 2002 H-D Sportster 1200 Custoom, Jade Sunglow Green Over SSK added accessories S900 OPD. Pics aveilable at www.barons-mc.com under the Swap Shop button. E-mail: raybourshart \$9 aho.com Phone (031) 611-4679; DSN 784-1230 637-2846. Kinser • 1991 Toyota Master Ace 4WD, seats 7. Great condition. Cold AC, CD, power windows and looks JCI is good until April 2006. Available 7 December. \$2800. Call 637-5199. 090-1941-8199. Kadena 92 Land Cruiser Prade: 4 door, seats 7, black exterior, green Interior. 10.00 km, turbo DSL great fuel econ, auto trans, power fusite, cold aic, power locks/windows/sunros/1 110, 5 lires, 1 year JCL Must sell, 54400 obo. Call 633-6261 or 090-1941-8199. Atsugi - White crib, \$25. Evenflo single stroller, \$25. Graco dou-ble stroller with car seat, \$100. Baby Bjorn infrast carrier, \$30. Medela dual breast pump, \$100. Pack-n-play, \$20. Call 264-6694 Conducted coales mediatin net Foster. Chinama, a Little girls dissesse, mirror, chest of draws es, and nightstand. Color is for set. Also have bed frame for set. Also have bed frame for fest. Also have for fest. Also have bed frame for fest. Also have bed frame for fest. Also have fest. Also have bed frame for fest. Also have fe Kadena-Boy's clothing for sale Everything is in great condition Pants are mostly silm sizes Good variety in sizes 8-10 Contact me at msrrosse yahoo.com or 633-8342. CST-5189. Challates, Ricky Microry 1922 Challates, Ricky With Tables and a 1996 Honds William 1920 Challates 19 Kadena - 1992 Toyota Prado Land cruiser: Automatic. Black exterior, gray interior, \$5,400.00 OBO. JCI 11/2005. Anti-lock Brakes, Child Safety Latch, Power Locks, Premium Sound, AMFM Radio, CD Player, Air C o n d i t i o n i n g. Sunroof/Moon-root, Premium Courtney - Blue Jean Teddy theme Infant bedding. One comforter, one dust ruffle, a fitted sheets, 2 receiving bland-est, 3 fleece blankets also diaper cuddy and wall decals \$39 for all. Call 622-6322 after 4pm. Kadena - Maternity clothing for sale. Most were purchased from Old Navy and Motherhood. Sizes are med and large. Contact me at msrrosser@yahoo.com or 633-8342. Kadena 93 Toyota Town Ace Van, Gray, automatic, power windows, power door locks, 8-seater with fold away seats, Kenwood CD, new tires, Great Condition, JCI until Nov 2005, 51,200.00 OBIO. Price Negotia-ble. Call Tommy at (W) 532-7002 or (H) 933-0557. com for pnotos or call 640-3940+. Foster, Okinawa - Looking for American sized couch and re-cliner for sale, if selling or giving away. Please call 646-5285 or e m a il 1 tin k e r b e II _ 2334 @yahoo.com for pictures. With PS2 HD, Strategy guides, Account already registered, Lev-el 30 THF with UBER item, gear, gill, etc. Asking \$250 more details call Nick at 622-8625 or email shady_styles@hotmail. Kinser - 1994 Nissan S14 Silvia: With SR20DET to many extras to list. \$3,500.00 firm. Call 637-5047. Courtney, Okinawa - Scooter, Practically brand new. Only has a very low mileage. Color red. Comes with a cover great to get around the bases. Interested please call 522-8234 or cell 090-1945-9762. Sunroof/Moon-roof, Premium Wheels Great Condition! 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Bought 4 years ago at circui city, paid 5750.5elling \$150 926-5058 or riramus@msn.com Excellent condition & well main-bained, A/C, automatic, power window, power look, power system, Cassette with 6 disk CD changer, MUST SELLI Asking 1,300bo Call Andrea & 938-2650 or e-mail andrea sambrano@kadena.af.mil Debtes et de de 213. 100 C. (1990 C. (Courtney, Okinawa - Arms Reach Co-Sleeper blue ging-ham. \$75.00 Call 622-5285 or 090-6864-4980. Kadena - Women's knee high black boots. Size 8, Brand new, still in box. S30.00 frm. Call 6 3 3 - 1 0 2 9 or e m a i I firekracker03@yahoo.com Kadena - 1993 Red Honda Prelude: \$500 DBO AIC needs recharged & radiator leaks. Can possibly help you fix. JCI due in Jan. Is a 5 speed & has a sunroof. 633-0730 or SSgt. Bouck 634-3128 email cgbouck@casis.mediatti.net for pictures Foster, Okinawa - Like new Graco Pack and Play with bassinet. Used twice may be three times during PCS move. \$40 OBO CALL 646-5360. Club/Parties *** August 1994 (Parties See Control 1995) (Parties See Control 1996) (Part Kadena - Graco High Chair Excellent condition \$10,00 obo or free to E-4 and below. Email wesnbettyl@fitzweb.org for pic-tures or more info. Or call 633-3125 Kadena, Okinawa - 34' wide screen Panasonic HDTV ir perfect condition. 950 obo sells for 1300 at BX if interested cal Johnson at 9567501 or 634.8207 Sh WORLD FRIENDS CHRIST-MAS PARTY in Yokohama, Dec 19 Control of the Control of t Kadena, Okinawa - Girls Bed-room dresser, very nice and solid, light white stain country look sturdy plece that will give many years of service. S80. Call Guy at 533-2908 or email oxiguy501@yahoo.com for pic-tures. 634-8207 Kadena, Okinawa - Nintendo 64 for sale. Comes with Golden Eye. I don't have any controls but I can get one. If interested then call 632-3202 or email ryan20_20@yahoo.com for pic-tures. Commercial Control (1997) and Co Kadena, Okinawa - CLASSIC Animal Collectibles: Have 4 total: Black Alpha Wolf (Hadley total) Concel, Mountain Box (Gilbert Ortone), Mountain Box (Gilbert Ortone), and Grey Wolf. First 3 are still in original boxes. First 3 are still in original boxes. First 3 of or \$3.5. E - m a 1 i kir1876 (kyshoo.com for pictures or call 633-1992. Kinser, Okinawa - I have a few spawn & witch blade comics, plus 4 figurines new in box. Asking \$40 for the whole lot obo. Contact 637-3787 or email angelichaby623 (hyahoo.com Kadena, Okinawa • Pier 1/Tommy Bahamas Style Ac-cessory Table. Made from anti-que wood. Lots of storage space. Asking \$400. If interes-ted, can email pictures. Please contact okifarrow@yahoo.com or 633-3200. Kadena, Okinawa - Vestax PDX2000 Turntable in excellent condition. If you'd like to try it out Courtney, Okicawa - 1 set of running boards for a 1992 or running boards for a 1992 or very nice condition. \$20.00 call 622-8329 or 1996 6881 4840. 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Call Chris at 090-8299-7364 or email mocraec@mcbbutler.usmc.mil Kadena - 1995 Red Nissan Kadena - RX7 92' red black leather interior sunnoof aftermar-ket body and light kit, Power FC, Hearst exhaust, Apox turbo timer, brand new racing clutch just put in. Great car but I must sell if interested call Patch at nna - 1995 Bed Nissan a: 2- doors, in great condi-Cold A/C and CD player. It little car, we just need broom. Asking \$3,500.00 Call Paul or Brittany at i-4124 or email andbritt@yahoo.com Sagambara, Jakon - Halah ne Mutha Trudens, Maro surelindi angeneda 21' x 6" x 18" 3 of 8 0" o Bought a new computer and did not need it. Paid \$30 asking \$10 OBO. Call Darla at 633-0958. polition-facility phonocom ST-500 for GM-6272 ST-500 for GM-6272 AU until Sept Co. Good AU. Till Kachare - SB-FFR BUY: BB Skyrine, Call Chad 8 Skyrine Yokota - Cannon CD printer, \$395; Logitech wireless PS2 game pad, \$45 each; External DVD-ROM, \$15; 1GHZ, 20 gic; (removable drive), BENO (CDRW), ATX Tower, floppy and media drive, \$550. Call 227-2425. Yokota, Japan - 54-inch TV by LG with remote: 2 years old, perfect condition, \$1,350.00 OBO. Call 227-5587 Yokota, Japan - Wood entertain-ment center/TV stereo cabinet with oriental finish: \$800.00

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610

Kadena, Okinawa - Beautiful white gold wedding ring: Princess cut center diamond with baguettes and rounds accents. Over 1 cart T. W. bought in states for over \$1600, asking \$7.00 o bo . E m a 11 paulandbritt @yahoo.com for pictures or call 653-4124.

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Kadena, Okinawa - CASH REWARD!! Lost-Gold Elephant Bracelet on Kadena early Octo-ber. Please call if found or if you received one recently as a gift from someone. Special gift from my husband irreplaceable senti-mental value 633-1509 or ws2cows @casis.mediath.net

Musical Instruments 740

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Outdoor Living 775

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646-5466.

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775

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Pets 820

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Foster Okinawa - Panasonic FZ-10. Comes with 64mb card. Like new, just bought this spring, but I want something a little more professional. Asking 275.00. It's \$350.00 new at PX sharnycon@hotmall.com or call

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The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometime, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not responsible for the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary depend or the Department of Defense.

Gift certificates expanding to all commissaries

By Bonnie Powell bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and exeremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud—and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at http://www.militaryscholar.org. A link to the program will be on http://www.commissaries.com, the DeCA Web site. Eligibility and other information are also available at the program. Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries Feb. 16, 2005. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current 1D card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at http://www.militaryscholar.org.



Commissary shopping meets holiday needs – traditional and nutritional

By Rick Brink richard.brink@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. – The holidays are upon us and the commissary is the place to meet the nutritional as well as traditional needs of its shoppers around the world.

For those who yearn for something other than the traditional feast, the wide variety of products and services offered in commissaries make them ideal places to shop for food — whether it's in quantities large enough for a party or ready-to-eat food just for one.

"This is the time of year when our sales peak because people traditionally get together for the holidays and they require food appropriate for the occasions. Commissary product variety and selection suits any occasion, and commissary shoppers buy more for their money because they save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices," said Scott Simpson, DeCA's chief operating officer.

With commissary services, customers don't even have to cook to throw a decent party. Fresh fruit and vegetable party trays, custom-decorated cakes, finger food trays, all kinds of snack items and drinks are available at most stores. The agency's Web site, http://www.commissaries.com, makes it easy to find the appropriate department's phone number to place orders. The wide variety of products sold in commissaries also suits the special dietary needs of many customers. There are low-calorie, low-carb, low-cholesterol – just about any kind of low-whatever products you can think of available in stores. Dietary supplements such as vitamins and other nutrients are also available.

Speaking of diet, what about the traditional turkey dinner? According to Kay Blakley, Dec'A. Europe's consumer advocate, the traditional side dishes like dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, candied sweet potatoes and green bean casserole topped with French fried onions weigh in at between 200 to 300 calories per serving. That's about as many calories as dessert – a slice of pumpkin pie topped with whipped

While that may bring a frown to folks' faces, the good news is that turkey is a real bargain in both calories and cost. A 3-ounce serving of boneless, skinless turkey breast is about 120 calories while a serving of dark turkey meat is about 160 calories, Blakley says.

Her advice for those who want the feast without adding pounds is this: "Remember that it takes an extra 3,500 calories above what you expend to put one pound of veight on your frame. So, get out your calculator and figure out how you'll have to trim consumption in the days ahead to make up for this one glorious meal."

第3種郵便物認可

AFN-TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: St. Louis at Green say (did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball:
dichigan at Georgia Tech.
AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.—College basketball: Florida State at Minnesota.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball:
dichigan State at Duke.
AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 a.m.—College basketAFN-Atlantic, 11:30 a.m.—College basketball: Maryland at Wisconsin.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—NBA: Toronto at Miami (did).

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at Houston (did).

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Maryland at Wisconsin (dld). AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.—NBA: Toronto at Or-AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Wake Forest at Illinois. Wake Forest at Illinois.
AIN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball:
North Carolina at Indian.
AIN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball:
Ohio State at Clemson (did).
AIN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball:
Virginia at Northwestern (did).
AIN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball:
North Carolina at Indiana (did).

All times Japan and Korea Standard Time; dld indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College football

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 27. tota points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

1. Southern Cal (52)	11-0	1.610	1
2. Oklahoma (7)	11-0	1,540	2
3. Auburn (6)	11-0	1.530	3
4. Californía	9-1	1.410	- 4
5. Utah	11-0	1.342	5
6. Texas	10-1	1,325	5 6 7
7. Louisville	9-1	1.175	7
8. Georgia	9-2	1.094	8
9. Miami	8-2	1.037	9
10. Virginia Tech	9-2	980	11
11. Boise St.	11-0	952	10
12. Iowa	9-2	911	12
13. LSU	9-2	877	14
14. Michigan	9-2	873	13
15. Tennessee	9-2	802	15
16. Florida St.	8-3	628	19
17. Wisconsin	9-2	612	20
18. Virginia	8-3	469	
19. Pittsburgh	7-3	304	-
20. Florida	7-4	290	25
21. Arizona St.	8-3	231	18
22. Texas A&M	7-4	199	22
23. Boston College	8-3	172	17
24. Texas Tech	7-4	167	_
25. Ohio St.	7-4	143	_
Others receiving vote	s: West V	irginia	113,
Toledo 63, Purdue 49, Co	olorado 43	, Fresn	o St.
33, Memphis 32, Oklah	oma St. 3	D, Nav	/ 23,

33, Memphis 32, Okianoma St. 30, Navy 2: Miami (Ohio) 16, UTEP 12, Syracuse 11, Clem son 8, Alabama 7, New Mexico 5, Bowlin Green 4, N. Illinois 3.

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 27, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote, through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Southern Cal (48)	11-0		
2. Oklahoma (6)	11-0	1.442	
3. Auburn (7)	11-0	1.435	
4. California	9-1	1,314	
5. Texas	10-1	1.266	
6. Utah	11-0		
7. Georgia	9-2	1,100	
B. Louisville	9-1	1,038	
D. Miami (Fla.)	8-2	983	
9. Miami (Fla.) 10. Boise State	11-0	926	1
11. Virginia Tech	9-2	915	î
12. LSÜ	9-2	887	î
12. LSU 12. Michigan	9-2	824	
13. Michigan 14. Iowa	9-2	787	1
15. Tennessee	9-2	706	î
16. Florida State	8-3	606	î
17 Wissonsin	9-2	568	i
17. Wisconsin 18. Virginia	8-3	411	i
19. Florida	7-4	251	
20. Texas Tech	7-4	208	
21. Pittsburgh	7-3	193	
22. Ohio State	7-4	172	2
23. Arizona State	8-3	167	
24. West Virginia	8-3	158	- 4
25. Texas A&M	7-4	152	2
25. Texas A&M		152	
Also receiving votes: I Colorado 75: Fresno Sta	Buston C	onege	131
colorado 75; Fresno Sta	te 15; NO	ormern	Dilli
nois 64; Memphis 59; Okla	anoma st	ate 52;	Pul

rious os; intempris bs; Oktanoma state 52; Pur-due 44; Texas-El Paso 27; Bowling Green 25; Navy 22; Mlami (Ohio) 5; North Texas 2; Tole-do 2; Alabama 1; Iowa State 1; New Mexico 1; Syracuse 1.

College football schedule

Monday, Nov. 29

Monday, Nov. 29

SOUTHWEST

Louisiana Tech at Rice

Thursday, Dec. 2

Mid-American championship,
(Ohio) vs. Toledo at betroit

Saturday, Dec. 4

EAST

Louisiana Tech at Rice

Mid-American championship,
(Ohio) vs. Toledo at betroit

Saturday, Dec. 4

EAST

Louisiana Technology

Mid-American championship,
(Ohio) vs. Toledo at betroit

Saturday, Dec. 4

Army vs. Navy at East Rutherl SOUTH Pittsburgh at South Florida Virginia Tech at Miami Ark.-Pine Bluff at Alabama St. utherford, N.J.

Louisville at Tulane Fla. International at Florida Atlantic SEC championship, Aubum vs. Tennessee t Atlanta California at Southern Miss.

Big 12 championship, Okla ado at Kansas City, Mo. FAR WEST ahoma vs. Colo Big 12
ado at Kansas City.
FAR Web.
Southern Cal at UCLA
Michigan St. at Hawaii
FAA Playoffs
Ouarterfinals
Ouarterfinals

I-AA Playoffs Quarterfinals Delaware (9-3) at William & Mary (10-2) James Madison (10-2) at Furman (10-2) New Hampshire (10-2) at Montana (10-2) Sam Houston State (10-2) at Eastern Wash Ington (9-3)

Saturday, Dec. 11 SOUTH SWAC championship, Alabama State vs. TBA at Birmingham

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's

	Record	Pts	Pvs	
1. Wake Forest (40) 2. Kansas (18)	5-0	1,737	1	
	2-0	1,582	- 4	
3. Syracuse (4)	5-0	1,562	- 4	
4. Georgia Tech (7) 5. Illinois (1)	3-0	1,580	2 4 3 5 6 7 8	
6. Oklahoma St. (2)	3-0	1,340	6	
7. Connecticut	10	1.329	7	
8. Kentucky	3-0	1 284	Ŕ	
9. North Carolina	4-1	1.134	11	
10. Duke	3-0	1.129	9	
 Michigan St. 	3-0	1.073	10	
12. Maryland 13. Pittsburgh 14. Washington	3-0	1.018	13	
13. Pittsburgh	3-0	782	16	
14. Washington	4-0	770	22	
15. Mississippi St.	5-1	743	14	
16. N.C. State	4-0	722	17	
17. Louisville	3-1		12	
	3-1	507	15	
19. Florida	3-0	447	23	
20. Notre Dame	3-0	442	21	
21. Arizona	3-2	413	18	
22. Alabama 23. Iowa	4-1	381	19	
23. Iowa	3-1	367	-	
24. Virginia	4-0	235	-	
25. Wisconsin	2-1	114	20	
Others receiving votes:				

Others receiving votes: Gonzaga 65. Cincin-nati 51. S. Illinois 46. Memphis 34, Creighton 26. Boston College 24, Vermont 18, Charlotte 16, Stanford 15, Oklahoma 14, Pepperdine 14, New Mexico 4, George Washington 3, Iowa St. 3, Nevada 3, Ohio St. 3, West Virginia 3, In-diana 2, Oregon 2, Rutgers 2, Holy Cross 1, LSU 1, Miamil (Ohio) 1, UTEN

AP Men's Top 25 schedule

Monday's games No. 2 Kansas vs. Nevadā, 9 p.m. No. 6 Oklahoma State at Southern Method

Ist No. 16 North Carolina State vs. Purdue No. 18 Texas vs. Coppin State Tuesday's games No. 4 Georgia Tech vs. Michigan No. 7 Connecticut vs. Florida Internatio No. 4 Georgia Samman
No. 5 Hord Live Samman
No. 8 Kertucky Vs. 1 Fendes at terrational
No. 8 Kertucky Vs. 1 Fennessee Tech
No. 12 Maryland at No. 25 Wisconsin
No. 12 Maryland at No. 25 Wisconsin
No. 19 Florida vs. 1 Horda Ash
No. 19 Horda Samman
Wednessky vs. 1 Maryland No. 10 Maryland
Wednessky vs. 1 Maryland
No. 21 Gova at 1 Protection
No. 1 Wednessky vs. 1 Maryland
No. 10 No. 1 Maryland No. 1 Maryland
No. 1 Maryland vs. 1 Maryland
No. 21 Kalabama vs. 1 Maryland
No. 21 Kalabama vs. 1 Maryland
No. 22 Virginal at Korthewstern
No. 2 Maryland vs. 1 Maryland
No. 2 Maryland vs. 1 Maryland
No. 2 Maryland
No. 2 Maryland
No. 3 Ma

Sunday's men's scores

EAST American International 78, S. Connecticut

3 Bentley 101, LeMoyne 73 Bowie St. 86, Mansfield 72 Edinboro 88, Penn St.-McKeesport 68 Elizabethtown 85, Hayerford 72 Fairleigh Dickinson 78, Dominican, N.Y. 45 Findiay 70, West Liberty 42 Findiay 70, West Liberty 42 Findiay 70, Cent. Connecticut St.

Fila. Infernational G3, Gent. Connecticut, Corego Washington S7, Fairfield 70 Holy Cross 73, Martes 52 Holy Cross 73, Martes 52 Massat. Cross 73, Martes 59 Massat. Cross 73, Martes 59 Massat. Cross 73, Martes 74 Massat. Cross 74, Martes 74 Massat. Cross 74, Martes 74 Martes 74, Martes 74 Martes 74, Martes 74 Martes 74, Martes 74 Williams 60, Lasel ST Milliams 60, Lasel ST M

Bellarmine 64, N. Kentucky 60

TANK MCNAMARA

THE AMERICAN HARD-LIQUOR ASSOCIATION DEFENDED ITS PURSUIT OF NASCAR 12-1 SPONSORSHIPS AS A "NATURAL MARKETING FIT." TON THE



East Carolina 77, Beimont Abbey 50 Kentucky Westleyan 31, Indianapolis 84 Kentucky Westleyan 32, Indianapolis 84 Kentucky Westleyan 31, Jacom Touton Res. Ahem voide-Lasgrange 76
Musskingum BJ, Keryon 74
Oluncy 87, Lewis 64
St. Heisen 74
Oluncy 87, Lewis 64
St. Heisen 74
Oluncy 87, Lewis 64
St. Heisen 75, Missouri-St. 72
Wis.-Millwaukee 50, Air Force 45
Wis.-Millwaukee 50, Air Force 45
Wis.-Millwaukee 50, Air Force 45
Control Wis.-Millwaukee 50, Air Force 45
Control St. St. Missouri-St. Louis 66
West St. S. Souri-West 75
COL 71, Birthamwise St. 67
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 71, Old DominOld St. St. Missouri-St. 71
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Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 71, Old DominOld St. S

ion 67
Texas-San Antonio 86, Texas A&M Interna-tional 68

. Treas-Sa Antonio 65, Teas AM International 68
AR WST
Chaminade 70, Coastal Carolina 61
Colorado 68, Northwesters 73,
Coastal Carolina 61
Colorado 68, Northwesters 73,
Santa Clara 85, Stanford 76
Sonta 76, Stanford 76
Sonta 76
Sonta 76, Stanford 76
Sonta 76
Sont

Widener 66, Elmira 63

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

1. LSU (42) 2. North Carolina (1) 3. Notre Dame 4. Tennessee 5. Stanford 6. Google 6. Georgia 7. Texas (1) 10. Duke 11. Ohio St. 12. Texas Tech 13. Vanderbilt 14. Purdue 15. Michigan St. 16. Rutgers 17. DePaul 18. Minnesota 19. Kansas St. 20. Boston College 3-1 294

2 6 184 1 189 2 2 4 Williamova 3 1 90 2 2 4 Williamova 3 1 90 2 2 4 Williamova 3 1 90 2 2 1 187 2 2 1 187 2 1 187 2 1 187 2 1 187 2 1 187 2 1 187 2 18

EAST American International 52, S. Connecticut

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American U. 48, N.C.-Asheville 46 Bellarmine 77, N. Kentucky 66 Ferrum 86, Palm Beach Atlamic 68 Ferrum 86, Palm Beach Atlamic 68 Kentucky Wesleyan 77, Indianapolis 51 Lipscomb 65, Birmingham-Southern 60 Louislana Tech 67, Arkansas St. 50 Shawnee St. 73, Methoduls 52 Tennessee 52, Temple 48 Transpiyania 15, Thomas More 55

ennessee 52, Temple 48 ransylvania 57, Thomas More 55 Vake Forest 97, Stetson 58 MIDWEST Ashland 79, Indiana, Pa. 72 Cardinal Stritch 97, Knox 34 Findlay 70, West Liberty 42 Ashhard St, Indiana, Pa. 72
Indiana, Pa. 73
Indiana, Pa. 73
Indiana, Pa. 73
Indiana, Pa. 74
Indiana, Pa. 75
In

Indiana 4.2, Cent. Michigan 3.2
Belmont 33, Ch. Third Place
Bernott 33, Ch. Third Place
Peg Sarsfield Holiday Classic
Arroll, Mont. 82, OTT
Rainbow Wahine Classic
Championship
TCU 80, Michigan 81, 75
Third Place
Georgia 87, Santa Clara 68
Light 57, Idahos 1914 Place

Georgia 87, Santa Clara 68
Utah 57, Idaho Sweeth Place
Hawaii 70, California 68
South Florida Tourname
E. Michigan 57, Third Place
St. Francis, NY 90, Niagara 48
Turkey Shoot Tournament at N.
Lynchburg 62, NC, Wesleyan 57
WIKV Lady Rebel Shooto
NIKV La

Villanova 59, Texas-Arlington 53
Wonder/Hostess Buckeye Classic
Championship
Ohlo St. 86, Bradley 52
Detroit 69, Yale 56

Baseball

Free agent signings

NEW YORK — The 15 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract infor-mation was obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sourc-

S: AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND (1) — Re-signed Bob Wick-nan, rhp, to a \$2.75 million, one-year conract.

DETROIT (1) — Signed Troy Percival, rhp.
unaheim, to a \$12 million, two-year con-

Anabem, to a \$12" million, two-year com-lines (\$100 \text{ } \). Signed hand castro 3.0. Cheminal, to a \$2.05 million, but-year col-sis 1 million, two-year contract. \$2.1 million, two-year contract. \$1.00 \text{ } \). The contract of the contract to a \$1 million, two-year contract. \$1.00 \text{ } \). Signed hand to contract.

SAN DIEGO (1) - Signed Rudy Seanez, rhp. Florida, to a \$550,000, one-year contract. SAN FRANCISCO (1) — Signed Omar Vizquel, ss, Cleveland, to a \$12.25 million, three-year contract. urree-year contract.

JAPANESE CENTRAL LEAGUE

YOMIURI (1) — Signed Gabe Kapler, of, Boston, to a one-year contract.

College soccer

Men's Division I tournament

Third Round
Saturday, Nov. 27
Saturday, Nov. 27
Virginia Commonwealth 2, Wake Forest 2,
Irginia Commonwealth won 7-5 on penalty virginia Commonwedith 2, Wake Forest 2, Virginia Commonwedith won 7-6 on penalty virginia 1. New Medico 1, Virginia won 6-5 on 18
Santil Barbard (13-52) at UC
Santil Barbard (17-52) pee. 5
Tulsa (13-6-3) at Indiana (15-4-1)
At The Home Dept Center
At The Home Dept Center
Semifinals
Diske-Virginia Friday, Dec. 10
Diske-Virginia Barbard winner
St. John's Manyland winner vs. Tulsa-Indiana winner

Championship Sunday, Dec. 12 Semifinal winners

Women's Division I tournament

Notre Dame 3, Portland 1 Princeton 3, Washington 1 UCLA I, Ohio Statu day, Nov. 27 UCLA I, Ohio State 0 Santa Clara 2, Illinois 0 Women's College Ca State 0"
, Illinois 0
men's College Cup
At Cary, N.C.
Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 3
yes Princeton (19-2

Friday, Dec. 3

UCLA (17-6-0) vs. Princeton (19-2-0)
Santa Clara (18-4-2) vs. Notre Dame (23-1-1)

(23-1-1) Final Sunday, Dec. 5
Santa Clara-Notre Dame Winner vs. UCLA-Princeton winner

College hockey

Sunday's scores

Rochester Tech S, Williams 3 Salem St. 12, Worcester St. 0 Augsburg 2, Minn. Orocston 2, tie Northland S, Hamiline 3 W. Michigan 3, Alabama-Huntsville 1 TOURNAMENTS Babson Tournament Championship

Championship Gustavus Adolphus 6, Babso Third Place Brockport 4, Skidmore 3, OT Charles Luce Tourn

Chameis Luce Tournament
Championship
Trinity, Conn. 2, Connecticut Coll. 1
Third Place

Trinity, Conn. 2, Compension Coll.
Ambers 3, W. Third Place
Holy Cross 3, Union, N.C. 1984
Holy Cross 3, Union, N.C. 1984
Holy Cross 3, Union, N.C. 1984
Bowdoin S, Salve Regins 4
Championship
St. Anselm 5, Phymouth 54
St. Anselm 55
St.

Wis -Stout & Lawrence 2

Deals

Weekend transactions

BASEBALL
National League
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Traded C Jason
Kendall to Oakland for LHP Mark Redman
and LHP Arthur Rhodes. BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
HOUSTON ROCKETS—Activated G Bob
ura from the injured list. Placed G Charlie

Sura from the injured list. Placed G Charlie Ward on the injured list, American Basketball Association LOS ANGELES STARS—Signed G Dion Bailey, G William Burr, G Darwin Carter, C Jeff Dailey, G A.J. Diggs and C Nantambu Willngham. MARYLAND NIGHTHAWKS—Signed G

andy Gill.

National Football League
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Placed LB Torrance
larshall on injured reserve. Signed LB Nick

Marshall on injured reserve. Signed to Non-Rogers.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DB Omare Lowe from the practice squad. Re-leased WR Kevin Kasper.
WASHMERTON REDSKINS—Signed DT Ryan Baschett from the College PURDUE—Announced sophomore F lie Nwankwo quit the men's basketball team.



Kings guard Bobby Jackson, left, battles Timberwolves guard Sam Cassell for a loose ball during the second half of Minnesota's victory.

T-wolves stay on time beat the clock, Kings

By Josh Dubow The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. When the clock malfunctioned in the final three minutes of a two-noint game in a hostile environment forcing the time to be kept at Sacramento's scorer's table, the Minnesota Timberwolves feared the worst.

"There's 2:52 in the game and all the sudden the clock breaks down?" Minnesota point guard Sam Cassell said with a smile. "It must be a conspiracy going on

But the Timberwolves didn't stop when the clock did, getting 11 straight points from Cassell and Kevin Garnett on their way to a 121-110 victory over the Kings

on Sunday night "These guys grew up on the playground," Minnesota coach Flip Saunders said. "They're used to that. If it had been a lot longer, it might have been difficult.'

What made it easier was the 11-0 run that turned a close game into an easy victory, eliminating the chance for a game-changing possession in the final seconds.

After Bobby Jackson's three-point play cut Minnesota's lead to 106-104 with 2:52 to play, the clock stopped working after a timeout. After a short delay while officials tried to get the clock working, the game resumed with time being kept at the scorer's table and the PA announcer call-

ing out the time. "It messed with your mind," Jackson said. "You can't pay attention to the announcer and what he is saying. It was clock management, and we didn't have it. It's tough not seeing the clock

The Kings' frustration boiled over and at one point coach Rick Adelman was screaming out "What's the time? What's the Adelman

The Timberwolves played it cool. With assistant Don Zierden using a stop watch on the sideline, Cassell hit a jumper right after the delay. Garnett followed with a basket after Peja Stojakovic missed a layup to make it

110-104. Cassell's three-pointer made it a nine-point lead and he and Garnett added two free throws each before Chris Webber stopped the run with a three-pointer.

"Luckily it wasn't too bad and you could hear. That was important." Minnesota's Wally Szczerbiak said. "It's all behind us and hopefully we won't have to deal with that again. Everyone stepped up and played their role and did their job."

Garnett finished with 28 and Cassell had 25 as the Timberwolves once again felt right at home in Sacramento and snapped the Kings' seven-game winning

Webber led the Kings with 25 oints, while Stojakovic and Mike Bibby added 22 apiece.

Cassell outscored Bibby 19-4 in the second half.

"When he's going like he's going we just sort of follow." Garnett said about Cassell.

Reserve Eddie Griffin had 20 points, including four three-point ers for the Timberwolves in the first meeting between the teams since Minnesota knocked out Sacramento in Game 7 of the second

round of the playoffs last season. While frenzied Arco Arena is normally one of the toughest arenas for a visiting team, the Timberwolves aren't bothered by all the noise and energy. Sacramento has lost just nine times at home the last two seasons, including the playoffs, with Minnesota responsi ble for four of them.

"It just came down to executing sets and making baskets," Cassell

said. "That's what we did."

The Kings trailed 85-84 after three quarters after Matt Barnes scored on a putback at the buzzer. Michael Olowokandi blocked Webber's dunk attempt on a fast break before Barnes converted the miss

Olowokandi who was suspended for two games by the team after being charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing after refusing to leave an Indianapolis club, scored four points in a reserve role.

West-leading Sonics top Pacers

SEATTLE - The Seattle Super-Sonics took advantage of the Indi-ana Pacers' depleted lineup in a matchup of NBA conference lead-

Rashard Lewis scored 22 points, Ray Allen had 19 points and a season-high nine assists and the Western Conference-lead ing SuperSonics beat the Eastern Conference-leading Pacers 103-95 on Sunday night for their fourth straight victory.

The Pacers were without Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson, suspended for their parts in the Nov. 19 brawl in Detroit, and the injured Scot Pollard, Jeff Foster and Reggie Mill-

"We just tried to push the ball and keep pressure on them," Son-ics coach Nate McMillan said. "We knew they had a short bench and hoped that would be a factor I thought the second half, they looked like they were a little fatigued

Seattle's reserves outscored Indiana's backups 45-4 to help the SuperSonics improve NBA-leading record to 13-2. Seattle also remained undefeated at

NRA roundup

its best record since 1993-94 season, when it opened 14-1.

Reserve Vladimir Radmanovic. who had 14 points, said it was important for Seattle's backups to provide some help for Lewis and Allen, who each played 41 min-

"For sure, you can't have two guys playing 48 minutes a full sea-son long," Radmanovic said. They've been well for us and we're going to continue to feed them. But some nights, it's going to be somebody else who has to step up."

James Jones scored reer-high 27 points for the Pacers (10-4), who had their three-game winning streak stopped and fell to 3-2 since the suspensions.

Lakers 89, Hornets 76: Kobe Bryant had 20 points, six rebounds and seven assists, and Los Angeles struggled against injury-depleted New Orleans at home. Heat 106. Celtics 104: Dwv-

ane Wade had 25 points, Shaquille O'Neal added 21 and tied a

team record by making all nine of his field-goal attempts for the Heat at home.

Paul Pierce missed one of two free throws with 5 seconds left that would have tied it for Boston. which lost its fourth straight.

Trail Blazers 83. Nets 71: Zach Randolph had 23 points and 15 rebounds, and the Trail Blazers sent the visiting Nets to their ninth straight loss

Richard Jefferson had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Nets, whose last victory came against Portland on Nov. 9.

Clippers 103, Warriors 91: At Los Angeles, Elton Brand scored six of his 25 points in the final 4 minutes and had 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who won their third straight to improve to 8-6.

With one game remaining this month, Los Angeles will finish November with a winning record for the first time since 1992, and for just the second time in 30 years.

Wizards 114, Raptors 109 (OT): At Toronto, Larry Hughes had a season-high 33 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double for Washing. ton in Toronto, which has lost eight of 10

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
		w	L	Pct	GB		
ew York		6	6	.500	-		
hiladelphia		6	7	.462	1/2		
oronto"		6	9	.400	11/2		
oston		4	8	.333	2		
ew Jersey		. 2 .	11	.154	41/2		
	Southeast						
liami		10	5	.667	-		
rlando		8	- 4	.667	1/2		
/ashington		7	5	.583	11/2		
harlotte		3	9	.250	51/2		
tlanta		2	11	.154	7		
	Central I		n				
ndiana		10	4	.714	-		
leveland		9	- 4	.692	1/2		
etroit		- 6	7	.462	31/2		
filwaukee		4	7	.364	41/2		
hicago		1	10	.091	71/2		
		-					

Western Conference								
Southwest Division W L Pct GR								
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans	11 10 6 5	3 5 9 9	.786 .667 .400 .357 .083	11/2 51/2 6 9				
Seattle Minnesota Utah Denver Portland Pacific Di	13 8 8 7 7	25666	.867 .615 .571 .538 .538	4 4½ 5 5				
Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers Golden State Washington 114, Toron L.A. Clippers 103, Gold Miami 106, Boston 104	11 8 8 8 8 3 gan	2 6 6 10 es	.571 .571 .231	3 3½ 3½ 8				

Miami 106, Boston 104
Portland 83, New Jersey 71
Seattle 103, Indiana 95
Minnesota 121, Sacramento 110
LA Lakers 89, New Orleans 76
Monday's games Boston at Orlando New Orleans at Denver Tuesday's games
New York at Atlanta
Toronto at Miami

Toronto at Miami Charlotte at New Jersey Sacramento at Memphis LA. Lakers at Milwaukee Detroit at Houston San Antonio at Dallas Phoenix at Utah Seattle at Portland Wednesday's games

Wednesday's gan Milwaukee at Boston Toronto at Orlando New Jersey at Washington Memphis at New York Sacramento at New Orleans LA, Lakers at Chicago Philadelphia at San Antonio Cleveland at Phoenix

Sunday Wizards 114, Raptors 109

WASHINGTON — Jamison 7-18 0-0 15, Je fries 0-2 0-0 0, Haywood 10-15 2-4 22, Hughe 11-21 10-15 33, Arenas 11-21 3-3 27, Hayes 2-6-611, Dixon 2-6 2-2 6, Walker 0-0 0-0 0, Ruffi 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-87 23-30 114.

TORONTO — Rose 12-21 2-2 29, Bosh 2-5 0-0 Woods 4-7 0-0 8, Carter 12-25 2-4 26, Alston

TORONTO — Boss 12-212-22, 8 oph 7-50-6 11-13.8, Peterson 7-5-1-8, 8 oph 7-50-6 5 Marroy 2-4-0-6, 4 Palasco 7-1-3-0-6, Marriand 11-13.8, Peterson 7-5-1-8, 8 oph 7-6 2-2-2-1-8, 10-

Clippers 103, Warriors 91

GOLDEN STATE - Mike.Dunleavy 9-16 1-1 20, Murphy 5-10 7-10 17, Davis 0-1 2-2 2, Rich-

Golden State 29 19 15 28— 91 L.A. Clippers 31 23 29 20—103 Three-Point Goals—Golden State 5-14 (Richardson 2-3, Robinson 1-2, Mike.Dunleavy 1-3, Fisher 1-4, Claxton 0-1. Pietrus 0-1), L.A. Clip-Fisher 1-4, Claxton 0-1, Pietrus 0-1), L.A. Clip-pers 4-10 (Simmons 2-2, Jaric 2-5, Bruson 0-3), Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 44 (Foyle 7), L.A. Clippers 53 (Brand 13), Assists—Golden State 20 (Fisher 8), L.A. Clip-pers 29 (Jaric 11), Total fouls—Golden State 20, L.A. Clippers 21, Technical—L.A. Clippers Defensive Three Second. A—14,567 (IAS)44).

Heat 106, Celtics 104

BOSTON — Welsch 1-4 3-3 5, LaFrentz 7-14 i-5 21, Blount 2-4 2-2 6, Payton 5-13 4-5 15, 4-10 9-10 1 is 6-16 3-3 16 0-3 0-0 0, Jefferson 2-6 1-2 5, McCarty 1-2 1-2 3, T.Allen 4-7 6-6 14, Perkins 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 1-81 34-38 104, MIAMI — Butler 2-8 1-2 5, Haslem 4-9 1-1 9,

"MAMA" Bible 28 12.5, Mastern 49 11.5, M

Timberwolves 121, Kings 110

MINNESOTA — Szczerbiak 5-11 4-5 15, Gar-nett 11-18 6-6 28. Madsen 1-1 1-2 3, Sprewell nett 11.18 6-9 28, MadSen 1-1 1.23 , Sprewell
4-11 1-2 10, Cassell 1-75 1.0-11, Plassell 2-5
4-11 1-2 10, Cassell 1-75 1.0-11, Plassell 2-5
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-5 0-3 1-0
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-7 1-7
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-7 22, Jackson 0-7
0 lowokand 2-4 0-9 4, Hobberg 1-7 2-7
0 lowokand 2-7 2Sprewell 1-3, Szczerbiak 1-3), Sacramento 5-11 (Bibby 2-4, Webber 1-1, Jackson 1-2, Sto-Jakovic 1-3, Barnes 0-1), Foulde out-Miller, Rebounds-Minnesota 60 (Garnett 16), Sacramento 47 (Webber 10), Assist-Minnesota 22 (Hudson, Cassell 6), Sacramento 24 (Bibby 7), Total fouls-Minnesota 27, Sacramento 24 (Bibby 7), Total fouls-Minnesota 27, Sacramento 24 (Bibby 7), Total Fouls-Cassell, Miller 3, Eject-ed-Miller, A-17,317 (17,317).

Trail Blazers 83, Nets 71

PORTLAND — Abdur-Rahim 4-119-9 17, Ran-dolph 8-2 7-11 23, Ratliff 1-5 0-0 2, Anderson 7-18 4-7 21, Stoudamire 3-7 0-0 7, Miles 1-6 0-0 2, Van Exel 1-4 2-2 4, Patterson 2-5 1-2 5, Przy-billa 1-1 0-2, Outlaw 0-0 0-0 0, Carisise 0-0 0-0 0, Telfair 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-79 23-31 83.

New Jersey 10 15 21 25—71 Portland 9 21 26 27—83 Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 2-11 (Best -2, EWilliams 1-3, Jefferson 0-1, Planinic 1-2, Lewillams 1-3, Jefferson 0-1, Planinic O-1, Scalabrine 0-4), Portland 4-14 Anderson 3-10, Stoudamire 1-2, Bandolph 0-1, Van Exel 0-1), Fouled out-None, Rebounds-New Jersey 51 (Jefferson, Mourning 7), Portland 63 (Randolph 15), Assists-New Jersey 16 (Jef-ferson, Scalabrine, Best 4), Portland 14 (Stoudamire 6), Total folus-New Jersey 26, Portland 22, A-14,263 (19,980).

Sonics 103. Pacers 95

SORIICS LUJ, FacerS 95
INDIANA - J.Jones 10-14 1-27. Croshere
3-13-5-6-12. Harrison 7-9-2-6-16. F.Jones 3-11
7-8-14. Tinise 9-17-2-42. Jones 0-3-0-0.
GIII 1-8-2-2-6. Edwards 0-0-0-0. Fowlkes 0-1
0-2-2-16. Fowlers 1-3-0-2. Lewis 9-19-1-2
2, James 1-2-0-0. Allen 5-13-7-8-19. Ridnour
48-3-13. Radmanovic 6-11-0-14. Daniels
48-4-6-14. Collison 2-5-0-0-4. Fortson 4-5-51 Indiana

13. Totals 36-73 20-24 103. Indiana 21 25 22 27 - 95 Seattle 24 31 22 26-103 Three-Point Goals—Indiana 10-24 (J.Jones 6-9. Tinsley 2-5, F.Jones 1-4, Croshere 1-5, Gill 0-1), Seattle 11-22 (Lewis 3-6, Daniels 2-2, Rid-9-1), Seattle 11-22 (Levis 3-6, Daniels 2-2, Rid-nour 2-4, Radmanvic 2-5, Allen 2-5), Fouled out - Harrison, Rebounds - Indiana 42 (Crosh-ere 8), Seattle 51 (Collison 9), Assists - Indi-ana 18 (Croshere 6), Seattle 24 (Allen 9), Total fous - Indiana 18, Seattle 24 (Fenn-cals - Harrison, Seattle Defensive Three Sec-ond, Daniels, Flagrant fouls - Fortson. A-14,808 (17,072).

Lakers 89, Hornets 76

LAKERS 30-7, HOTHERS / O NEW ORLEANS — Nalion 1-14 6-9 2, West 3-9 9-11 15, P.Brown 5-9 2-2 12, Wesley 2-11 3-3 7, Armstrong 9-20 0-9 21, Frejle 1-14-2 3, Harrington 5-11 4-14, Andersen 1-20-0 2. To-tall 1-15 and 1-15 and 1-15 and 1-15 and 1-15 and 1-15 and 5-10 4-5 14, Mihm 2-5 2-2 6, Bryant 7-20-5 20, ALLIMES 2. Butter 3-10 -0 6, Cook 4-7 10-10 10, Jones 1-40-0 2, Walton 0-0-0, Rush 1-3 1-14, Total 3-0-75 21-22 80, 0-10 3, Let 1-15 and 1

1-31-1-4 Totals 30-7571-2588 vero 14, residing the New Orleans 30-7571-2588 vero 14, residing the New Orleans 3-10 (Armeron 3-6, reside 0.1, Wesley 6-2), L. Likers 14, reside 0.1, L. Likers 14, reside 0.1, L. Likers 14, reside 0.1, re

Odds are stacked against BCS

Bowl formula has too many problems that time can't heal

BY CHRIS DUFRESNE Los Angeles Times

"Have patience," University of Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer counseled reporters on a teleconference two weeks ago when it was suggested college football might be

Commentary

er laughable conclusion.
Frohnmayer, point man
for school presidents rejecting any kind of playoff,
said it was "stunning" that
so many people were com-

plaining about changes in the Bowl Championship Series formula before the season had even played out.

"Let's see how the postseason stacks up after all the returns are in," he said.

How it's stacking up with one week left in the regular season: Utah and Boise State have already clinched undefeated regular seasons.

Neither has a stake in the national title race because they play in non-BCS conferences the Mountain West and Western Athletic.

Meanwhile, in the so-called "power" conferences, Pittsburgh of the Big East can clinch a major bowl bid next week even if it loses to South Florida and finishes with a 7-4 record.

Pittsburgh, in fact, may be the first school to earn a BCS game with a coach, Walt Harris, who might get fired. A month ago, Harris' agent demanded his underappreciated client either be handed an extension or his walking

Two-loss Michigan has already wrapped up a Rose Bowl bid and a two-loss team is going to win the Atlantic Coast Conference and a \$16 million bowl berth.

If Colorado beats Oklahoma next week, Gary Barnett's Buffaloes win the Big 12 title with an 8-4 record and could face 7-4 Pitt in the Fiesta Bowl.

That would be eight losses, for two teams, in one BCS bowl, while the Liberty Bowl, which pays \$1.35 million, gets to match 11-0 Boise State against Louisville in a battle of probable ton-10 teams.

Remember, though, the Liberty is not a "major" bowl, so pay it no serious attention!

How it's stacking up II: Pitt's in, Michigan's in, Colorado has a puncher's chance yet it appears either 10-1 California or 10-1 Texas will get left out of a BCS game.

Sorry, boys, but those are the convoluted rules and, thus far in the at-large animal kingdom bid battle, the Golden Bears are holding off the Longhorns.

Texas coach Mack Brown was so apoplectic over possibly getting shut out of a BCS game — despite not winning his own division of his own conference — he resorted to begging for votes after Texas' holiday-weekend win over Texas A&M.

Based on Sunday's poll votes, Mack, you need to hire Karl Rove

California picked up five points on Texas in the writers' poll and nine points in the coaches'.

How it's stacking up III: USC, Oklahoma and Auburn are all undefeated headed into regular-season finale games. All will be fa-



Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko liked the noise the crowd made when the Panthers upset West Virginia, but now the chatter is that the Panthers don't belong in a BCS bowl.



Knowing his Longhorns are likely to be left out of the BCS again this year despite a No. 5 ranking, Texas coach Mack Brown lobbied for votes after beating Texas A&M last week.

vored to win next weekend.

Wait, though—there has never been a BCS season in which more than two top-10 teams have ended with no losses. And now there could be five? Isn't this against the rules? Unfortunately, you can't cram five, four or three undefeated teams into one BCS championship game, so this is shaping up to be a quite a quag-

The three top schools are all making vehement claims for being best in BCS show.

USC, for example, was leading Notre Dame, 34-10, late in Saturday's game and then made it 41-10 on a touchdown set up by a fake punt on fourth down

No way was USC coach Pete Carroll trying to tack on a score to impress the judges, even though, that very same day, two yahoos on ABC — or was it two ABCs on Yahoo? — claimed USC was a bogus No. I and that Oklahoma and Auburn deserved to play for the title.

For what it's worth, one analyst played running back for the only school ever to receive

the NCAA "death penalty" and the other played for ... Notre Dame. Fear not, though, because former Notre

Dame coach Bob Davie has a "simple solution" for saving the BCS.

Davie presented in written and oral argu-

Davie presented in written and oral arguments last week a proposal to have all 117 Division I-A coaches vote for the two teams they want to play for the national title.

That's right, the coaches

Davie says give these 0-and-X-men a box of tapes and two days and they'll figure out the two best teams.

"Let them decide their national champion," Davie wrote.

Davie is a tremendous ESPN analyst much better at breaking down action than he was at whipping the Irish into national contention — yet his idea of turning the BCS over to the coaches is akin to turning a hen house over to the foxes.

Davie wants to add more voting coaches to the gaggle that last year had USC at No. 1 until the Trojans defeated Michigan in the Rose Bowl, after which the coaches awarded their share of the national championship to Louisi-

These are the same voting coaches who recently voted, 32-29, not to make their final ballots public this year.

And no wonder, given that last week, California lost points in the coaches' poll to Texas after the Bears beat Stanford by 35 points and the Longhorns spent the weekend feeding hay to Bevo.

These are the same coaches who, in 1997, had Michigan No. 1 until it had the gall to beat Washington State in the Rose Bowl.

Let the coaches decide? Even tossing aside all the lost logic, Davie fails to mention that The Associated Press poll is independent of the coaches and is not going away, so what controversy has Davie solved?

"Have patience," counseled the university president from the school where the movie "Animal House" was filmed.

Pardon us if we think a food fight might be a better way to produce a champion than what the BCS currently offers.

True, there is one week left for some of this potential mess to sort itself out.

Time is running short, however, the BCS is on the clock and, frankly, patience is wearing thin.

Auburn still third with little it can do

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Auburn needs an upset. The Tigers are still stuck be-

hind first-place Southern California and second-place Oklahoma in the Bowl Championship Series standings, heading into the final weekend before the national title game is decided.

Third-place Auburn needs to beat Tennessee in the Southeast-ern Conference title game Saturday and hope for USC to lose AUCLA or Oklahoma to fall in the Big 12 title game against Colorado to earn a spot in the Orange Bowl and play for the BCS championship.

USC improved its BCS grade in

USC improved its BCS grade in the standings released Monday to .9834, and padded its lead over the Sooners (.9611). The Tigers have a grade of .9342.

While Oklahoma and Auburn were idle last week, the Trojans beat Notre Dame 41-10 to regain some support in The Associated Press Top 25 and coaches poll.

The polls each count for a third of a team's BCS grade. A compilation of six computer rankings are used to determine the other third.

USC holds a big lead in both polls, ahead of No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 3 Auburn. The Sooners and Tigers are separated by a total of only 17 points in the two polls, but the BCS computers have pegged Oklahoma as the No. 1 team in the country with USC.

second and Auburn third.
California (8431) barely held
on to the fourth spot, ahead of
Texas (8418), after the Longhorns ended the season with a
26-13 victory over Texas A&M
last week.

The Golden Bears will lock up a spot in the BCS by beating Southern Mississippi on Saturday. The Bears would play in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 45 years if USC ends up in the Orange Bowl.

Šixth-place Utah (8224) is guaranteed an at-large bid as a team from a non-BCS conference with a top-six finish in the BCS standings. The Utes (11-0), from the Mountain West Conference, finished their season two weeks ago and are sure to become the first team from a mid-major conference to play in the BCS.

Boise State (.6510) dropped from seventh to eighth in the BCS standings behind Georgia (.6948).



Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Heels have little trouble with USC

By KEITH PARSONS
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Southern California coach Henry Bibby got a lot better look at North Carolina than he needed.

"We played probably a Final Four team," Bibby said. "We aren't going to see too many teams better than the team we faced tonight."

Playing their fifth game in eight days, the 11th-ranked Tar Heels got 23 points from Jawad Williams and 17 from Sean May to beat the Trojans 97-65 Sunday night

Raymond Felton added 12 assists for North Carolina (4-1), which won the Maui Invitational in convincing fashion last week, outscoring its opponents by an average of 21 points. An all-night plane ride got the players back to campus late Friday, and they practiced almost immediately.

Another workout followed on Saturday, then the Tar Heels quickly went to work on Southern California (1-1).

"We needed something to humble us a bit," Bibby said. "It puts things back into perspective for us. We need to go back to the drawing board."

The score was tied only at 2, and Jackie Manuel's jumper gave North Carolina the lead for good. It reached double figures on

a three-pointer by Rashad McCants about 6½ minutes into the first half, and May's free throw made it a 20-point margin with about 5 minutes left.

"I was worried about us being a little stagnant, a little too casual out there," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "I feel very good about the win. I think we played exceptionally wall"

North Carolina had a 22-5 run to close the opening 20 minutes, and the Trojans never recovered. This wasn't quite the homecoming Bibby wanted — he grew up in tiny Franklinton, about 30 miles from

Chapel Hill.

Jeff McMillan scored 10 points for USC, which fell to 0-7 against North Carolina.

"It just shows me how much work we need to do to get where we need to be," Bibby said. "I thought the kids played hard out on the floor, but I don't think we always played smart. They'll get better as things

go on."

Scoring never was a problem for the Tar
Heels, who returned the Atlantic Coast
Conference's top scorer (McCants), top rebounder (May) and assist man (Felton) for
Roy Williams' second season. This was
their third straight game with at least 90
points.

Their play on the other end of the court has been the focus, and so far. North Caroli-

College bowl schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Payout: \$750,000

with Texas (7-4) vs. 50. Miss. (6-4)

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
Payout: \$850,000

C vs. Big. 12

ACC vs. Big 12 Medinesday, Dec. 20 Wedlinesday, Dec. 20 Wedlinesday, Dec. 20 Medinesday, Dec. 21 Medinesday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth Bowl CUSA No. 45 Med. 20 Medinesday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth Bowl CUSA No. 45 Paci-10 No. 47 Facilly No. 47

Monday, Dec. 27 MPC Computers Bo Payout: \$750,000 ACC No. 6

Motor City Bowl
Payout: \$750,000
| Ten No. 7
Tuesday, Dec. 28

endence Bo ut: \$1.2 milli na appears better. The Trojans shot only 35 percent and had 28 turnovers, including 16 in the first half.

"I think we were in a little bit of a frenzy defensively in the first half, and that's good, if you can still be fundamentally sound." Roy Williams said.

The change was apparent during the decisive spurt. USC shot 2-for-10 in the final 7½ minutes, including a block by the 6-foot-4 McCants on the 6-11 Rory O'Neil. That started a highlight-reel fast break, with McCants whiring around Derrick Craven and passing to Felton, who lobbed the ball to Jawad Williams for a powerful dunk.

At that point, the Tar Heels led 56-25 their first 30-point lead of the game — and the second half essentially was garbage time.

"I think we were doing some trapping out there that was frustrating them," May said. "They lost their rhythm."

Another point of emphasis for North Carolina this season has been sharing the ball, and if the first half was any indication, that problem is solved, too. Every player who got on the court had at least one assist, led by Felton's six, and 17 of the 22 baskets came after assists.

"When you see somebody passing the ball to a teammate, it makes you want to



North Carolina's Jawad Williams, right, draws a foul on Southern Cal's Gregg Guenther (4) on Sunday. Williams scored a game-high 23 points.

pass it," Manuel said. "To me, when I pass the ball to somebody and he scores, that feels just as good as when I score."

Florida St. headed to Gator Bowl

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Florida State coach Bobby Bowden will face his former team for the first time in more than two decades when the 16th-ranked Seminoles play West Virginia in the Gator Bowl.

The Mountaineers (8-3) accepted an invitation to the Jan. 1 bowl Monday, and bowl officials said Florida State (8-3) would be named the opponent Tuesday.

Bowden coached at West Virginia from 1970 to 1975. He took over at Florida State in January 1976 and now has the most coaching victories (350) in Division I-A history.

He last faced the Mountaineers in the 1982 Gator Bowl, which the Seminoles won 31-12. West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez was a defensive back for the Mountaineers in that game.

Rodriguez, an assistant under Bowden's son Tommy at Tulane and Clemson before taking over at West Virginia before the 2001 season, said he has known Bobby Bowden for nearly 20 years. He also said he gleaned much of his coaching style from the elder Bowden.

"Thave not only tremendous respect for coach Bowden and what he has done as a football coach, but even more respect for him as a person," Rodriguez said Monday, "A lot of personal philosophies and ideas that Tve developed through my young careler came from the Bowden family. I'm proud to say that. He's a true legend of the game."

West Virginia, which lost its last two regular season games, will be making a second straight trip to the Gator Bowl.

Payout: \$1.55 millio te (7-4) vs. Big 12 No Thursday, Dec. 30

Big East No

The Mountaineers were the front-runners to earn the Big East's guaranteed Bowl Championship Series bid before their 36-17 loss to Boston College two weeks ago. West Virginia ended the regular season with 16-13 loss to Pittsburgh on Thanksgiving nieht.

Last year, West Virginia lost to Maryland 41-7 in the Gator Bowl. The Mountaineers have lost all four of their Gator Bowl appearances, and 10 of their last 11 bowl games overall, dating back to the 1987 Sun Bowl.

In other bowl games, the Cin-

Enerald Enerd

MWC No. 3rx. Norty (6-2)

MWC No. 3rx. Norty (6-2)

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Pac-10 Ne, yout 2 critision

Silicon Valley Classic

Floriday, Dec. 31

March Chyl Bowl

SEC Vs. 180 (7 m No. 5

March Chyl Bowl

SEC Vs. 180 (7 m No. 5

March Chyl Bowl

SEC Vs. 180 (7 m No. 5

Purdue (7-4) vs. 7ac. 10 No. 3

Purdue (7-4) vs. 180 No. 10

ACC No. 3 vs. 5EC No. 4

March Capital Company 15 of 10 No. 10

SEC Vs. 180 (1 m No. 10

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No. 10 No. 10

cinnati Bearcats were invited Sunday to play in the Fort Worth Bowl, a day after losing 70-7 to No. 7 Louisville.

BCS vs. BCS Tuesday, Jan. 4 Orange Bowl Payout: \$11-14 mill BCS1 vs. BCS2

The bowl, played on Dec. 23, is one of five affiliated with Conference USA. A Big 12 team normally would get the other invitation, but the bowl-eligible schools have locked up bids already.

Bowl officials are negotiating with the Atlantic Coast, Big East and Mid-American conferences for another participant.

Cincinnati (6-5) rallied from a 2-4 start to earn its fourth bowl appearance in the last five seasons.

Quarterback Gino Guidugli slipped and broke his hand in the week before the loss to Louisville and will not be available for the

Stanford coach Teevens fired after three seasons

The Associated Pres

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford football coach Buddy Teevens was fired after three straight losing seasons, an athletic department source said Monday on condition of anonymity.

The school called an afternoon news conference. A call to Teevens' home Monday was not immediately returned.

Athletic director Ted Leland, a close personal friend of Teevens, met with the coach last week after the Cardinal finished 4-7 for the second consecutive year. Stanford lost 41-6 to archrival California in the Big Game on Nov. 25 for its fifth straight defeat, ending a season that began 4-2 with hopes of a bowl game.

The 48-year-old Teevens, who had two years remaining on his contract, is the first Stanford football coach to be fired since Jack Elway was dismissed in 1988 after going 3-6-2.

Fans and alumni seemed to lose faith in Teevens for good following the embarrassing Big Game defeat. The Cardinal showed little poise in the waning moments, getting flagged for several personal fouls. Stanford

Teevens' tenure.
Teevens finished with a 10-23 record in three seasons after taking over the program when Tyrone Willingham bolted for Notre Dame following the 2001 season. Teevens spent the three previous seasons on Steve Spurier's staff

struggled to score throughout

at Florida.

Teevens was fired as Tulane head coach in 1996 after refusing to resign because he didn't want his players to think he'd quit on them.

The Cardinal went 0-13 down the stretch during Teevens' three seasons. They were close in the

Sports briefs

final minutes in five defeats this season — including 31-28 against No. 1 Southern California

Police ID fan who threw chair in NBA brawl

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Police said Monday they know the identity of the man who threw a chair in a brawl between players and fans during the Indiana-Detroit game on Nov. 19.

Police did not identify the man, though they said he is a 35-year-old Pistons' season-ticket holder. He has not been interviewed and is not in custody. Police Lt. James Manning said police have met with the man's attorney.

The lawyer, Kenneth Karasick, did not immediately respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca has said the man who threw the chair, which hit several people including a police officer, could be charged with felony assault.

Brewers, Miller finalize deal

MILWAUKEE — Catcher Damian Miller's \$8.75 million, three-year contract with the Milwaukee Brewers was finalized

Monday.
While the deal was agreed to last week and Miller took a physical Wednesday, the Brewers put off completing the agreement because it couldn't find any of its team physicians to read the MRI exam results ahead of the holiday weekend.

Miller gets \$3.25 million in each of the next two seasons and Milwaukee has a \$3.75 million option for 2007.

Jeff George is back, and the Bears have him

Three years after last game, he's just glad to get call

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - Talent was never Jeff George's problem. His personality, well, that's a

different story. Cocky. Hardheaded. Selfish. Egotistical. Arrogant. He heard them all as he hopscotched around the NFL, a nomadic jour ney that had as much to do with

his attitude as his ability. "I really don't concern myself with that, to be quite honest with you," George said Monday after signing a one-year deal with the Chicago Bears. "I'm 36 years old, and if people want to harp on what I did when I was 26 years old, that's one thing. But I can just say this ... I am a blessed man

"To get another opportunity to play football at whatever role I have, I'm definitely going to take advantage of that," he added.

"I know there's people that always doubt me and doubt other people, but that's the nature of the business. I'm not any different than any other quarterback out there

Oh, but he is.

George was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1990 draft, blessed with a strong and amazingly accurate arm. He threw for 27,602 vards and 154 touchdowns in 12 years, completing almost 58 percent of his passes while throwing 113 interceptions

But he's never lived up to the expectations that come with such talent, going 46-78 as a starter. The Bears are his seventh team, and he hasn't played in a game in more than three years. George, who turns 37 on Dec. 8, has been out of the NFL completely for the last season and a half.

The Bears, though, are desperate enough to give George another chance. Chicago (4-7) has already burned through three quarterbacks because of injury or ineffectiveness, and the offense has scored only one touchdown in the last three games

Football is all I know." George

44I'm 36 years old, and if people want to harp on what I did when I was 26 years old, that's one

thing. But I

can just say this

... I am a blessed

Jeff George Bears quarterback

said. "But I know the business and I know what it's like, and unfortunately what's happened to me in the past has continued to follow me, I guess."

George has been a magnet for criticism since he was in college. when he transferred from Purdue to Illinois after just one sea-

He infuriated fans of his hometown Indianapolis Colts with a 36-day holdout in 1993, squabbled with coaches and alienated teammates with his aloofness and cockiness.

His reputation was further sullied in 1996, when he had a sideline argument with Atlanta Falcons coach June Jones in full view of television cameras. The Falcons suspended George for four games, then cut him.

He swore he was a changed man, that he'd learned from the experience, and he had trou ble-free stops in Oakland and Minnesota.

But any repairs George made to his image were quickly erased in 2001, when he was with the Washington Redskins.

In the season opener, he had an animated sideline discussion with coach Marty Schottenheimer when George was pulled after four turnovers. He played one more game before the Redskins cut him. He had a quarterback rating of 34.6, completing 23 of 42 passes with three interceptions.

George signed with Seattle midway through the 2002 season but didn't play.

"Jeff has been through an awful lot, which he will acknowledge to you. He learned an awful lot from it," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "When I met him, I really got a good feel about him and where he is at this time in his life. ... He's at a stage in his life where he wants to be a part of a team and help the team win."

George wasted little time reaching out to his new teammates

The Bears' offense is a complex one, with a playbook bigger than a Manhattan directory. After devoting the weekend studying the offense, he was already giving his vounger teammates tips Monday.

"He's going out there with a mission to try and get something accomplished, which is trying to get the team better right now," re-ceiver Bobby Wade said. "He was coming up to me, telling me little techniques, little things he was able to see that we need to improve on. It being his first day, I'm comfortable with him coming up and doing that."

Though the Bears have already said Chad Hutchinson will start against Minnesota on Sunday, receiver David Terrell was practically giddy about the chance to play with George.
"We've got Wyatt Earp and

we've got the gunslingers, rell crowed. "It's going to be a fun last five games for us, I'm telling

While George thinks he can pick the offense up in a couple of days - there isn't much he hasn't seen in his career, after all - he won't nush to start. But the Rears can't afford to be patient with another struggling quarterback.

If Hutchinson has any trouble, George could find himself back in the game only a few days after having to recruit buddies to catch passes at his old high school.



Jeff George blows on his hands to keep warm while taking part in Monday's workout, his first since signing a one-year contract with the Chicago Bears. George, who played 12 seasons with six teams, hasn't layed in an NFL game since starting the 2001 opener with the Washington Redskins. The Redskins sent him packing later that year.

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NFL scoreboard

American Conference								
East								
	w	L	Т	Pct PF PA				
New England	10	1	0	.909 288 174				
N.Y. Jets	8	3	0	.727 225 168				
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455 218 192				
Miami	2	9	0	.182 164 227				
	South							
Indianapolis	8	3	0	.727 380 239				
Jacksonville	6	5		.545 182 208				
Houston	5	6	0	.455 229 260				
Tennessee	4		0	.364 207 243				
	North							
Pittsburgh	10	1	0	.909 256 168				
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636 207 164				
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455 241 246				
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273 225 266				
West								
San Diego	8	3	0	.727 319 221				
Denver	7	4	0	.636 257 192				
Oakland	4	7	0	.364 207 294				
Kansas City	3	8	0	.273 307 299				

Railsas City	3	0	0	.213	307	255				
National Conference										
East										
	w		Т	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Philadelphia	10		0		293	164				
N.Y. Giants	5	6	0	.455						
Dallas	- 4	7		.364						
Washington	3	8	0	.273	138	194				
	outl	١.								
Atlanta		2	0	.818	232	215				
Carolina	- 4	7		.364						
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	232	312				
Tampa Bay	- 4	7	0	.364	206	203				
	orti									
Minnesota	7	4	0	.636	291	262				
Green Bay	6			.600						
Chicago	- 4	7	0	.364	172	221				
Detroit		7	0	.364	192	257				
	West									
Seattle	6									
St. Louis	5	5		.500						
Arizona		7	0							
San Francisco		10	0	.091	192	320				
x-clinched division										
Thursday's games										

Thursday's games Indianapolis 41, Detroit Dallas 21, Chicago 7 Sunday's games Houston 31, Tennessee 21 Pittsburgh 16, Washington 7 Philladelphia 27, N.Y, Glants 6 Cincinnati 58, Cleveland 48

Cincinnati SS, Cieveland 48
San Diego 34, Kansas City 31
Carolina 21, Tampa Bay 14
Minnesota 27, Jacksonville 16
Atlanta 24, New Orleans 21
Buffalo 38, Seattle 9
N.Y. Jets 13, Arizona 3
Maini 24, San Francisco 17
New England 24, Baltimore 3
Oakfand 25, Derver 24
Monday's game
St. Louis at Green Bay
St. Louis at Green Bay
St. House St. Proceeding 19
Arizona at Detroited, Nec. 5
Buffalo at Milami

Buffalo at Miami Houston at N.Y. Jets Minnesota at Chicago Tennessee at Indiana Tennessee at Indianapolis Cincinnati at Baltimore San Francisco at St. Louis Atlanta at Tampa Bay Carolina at New Orleans New England at Cleveland Denver at San Diego Denver at San Diego Kansas City at Oakland N.Y. Giants at Washington Green Bay at Philadelphia Pittsburgh at Jacksonville

Monday, Dec. 6 Dallas at Seattle

Sunday Texans 31, Titans 21

Tennessee 14 7 0 0-21 Houston 3 7 14 7-31 3 7 14 7-31
First Quarter
Ten-Kinney 12 pass from McNair (Anderon kick), 10:13.

son kick), 10:13. Ten-Kinney 11 pass from McNair (Ander-son kick), 5:44. Hou-FG K.Brown 29, :35.

HOU-FG KBROWN 29; 35.
Second Quarter
Ten-Mason 4 pass from McNair (Anderon kick), 1038.
Hou-Wells 7 run (KBrown kick), 6:46.
Third Quarter
Hou-Miller 14 pass from Carr (Brown kick) 9:20.

kick), 9:20.

Hou—A.Johnson 11 pass from Carr (Brown kick), 2:35. Fourth Quarter Hou-Davis 41 run (Brown kick), 1:34. A-70,721.

Ten Hou First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns 355 328 25-134 21-149 221 2-6 179 1-0 4-93 1-24 Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 5-91 1-11 15-34-1 21-30-1 1-6 3-22 1-6 3-22 3-42.3 3-45.3 4-2 0-0

Punts Fumbles-Lost

Pumples-Lost 4-2 0-1
Penalties-Yards 5-37 3-3
Time of Possession 32:55 27:05

NDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Tennessee, A.Smith 21-90, Mc
Nair 3-24, Holcombe 1-20. Houston, Davis
16-129, Wells 3-10, Carr 2-10.

16-129, Wells 3-10, Carr 2-10.

Passing—Tennesse, McNair 25-34-1-227.
Houston, Carr 21-30-1-201.
Receiving—Tennessee, Mason 8-87, Kinneye 6-33, Bennett 5-54, Meier 2-12, A.Smith 2-11, Troupe 1-6, Holcombe 1-4, Houston, Davis 7-52, Miller 4-42, A.Johnson 4-34, Bradford 3-32, Armstrong 1-20, Bruener 1-12, Wells 1-9. Missed field goal-Houston, Brown 41

Steelers 16. Redskins 7

washington
Pittsburgh First Quarter
Pit-FG Reed 33, 205
Pit-Bettis A group of the pit-Bettis A group of the pit-FG Reed 36, 205
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Pit-FG Reed 36, 20

Third Quarter
Was-Cooley 2 pass from Ramsey (Hall kick), 3:23.

Fourth Quarter Pit—FG Reed 32, 9:54. A=63,707. Pit-F (Reed 32, 95-4)

A-63,707. Was Pit Flest down and the Reed 22, 95-4

Flest down and the Reed 23, 95-4

Reed 24, 95-4

Reed 25, 95-4

Re

Eagles 27, Giants 6

Eagles 27, Glaints 6
Philadephia 0 7 13 7-27
N.Y. Glaints 67 13 0 0-6
NY-FG Christic 22, 236.
Phi-Mesthode 22, 236.
Phi-Mesthode 13, 568.
Phi-Westhode, 1 run (March Phi-FG Alers 4, 1 run (Ma

22 12 390 272 38-152 26-161 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns 238 1-0 3-65 Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts Fumbles-Lost Panalities Man 2-0 0-0 18-27-0 6-21-2 2-6 5-37 5-39.4 6-36.8 2-1 2-0 2-1 2-0 12-75 6-64 33:48 26:12

Penalties-Yards 12-7 Time of Possession 33:4 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Time of Possessional STATISTICS
Rushing—Philadelphia, Westbrook 18-74,
Levens 9-78, McNabb 5-30, Tapeh 3-12, DebDayse 2-34, Barning 2-18, Hilland 1-17, Taylor 1-(mins. bil. del-phis. McNabb 18-27d-14, New York Manning 2-18, Hilland 1-17, Taylor 1-(mins. bil. del-phis. McNabb 18-27d-14, New York Manning 2-18, Hilland 1-17, TayTold New York Manning 2-18, Westbrook 5-53,
Receiving—Philadelphis, Westbrook 5-53,
Sandra 1-3, Toomer 1-6,
Shidchell 1-3, New York Taylor 2-102,
Shidchell 2-3, Barber 1-3, Toomer 1-6,
Missed Heit goods—Nove.

Bengals 58, Browns 48

Cleveland 10 3 21 14-48 Cincinnati 14 13 14 17-58 14 13 14 17-58 First Quarter 7 pass from Holcomb (Daw-

Cincellated First Quarter

Cinc-Heideline First Quarter

Cinc-Heideline Jass from Palmer

Cinc-Lohnizon 46 pass from Palmer

Cinc-Cohnizon 46 pass from Palmer

Cinc-Bouthmand 22 pil.

Cinc-Houthmand 22 pil.

Cinc-

Receiving—Cleveland. Bryant 8-131. Heiden 7-82. Northcutt-5-87, She5-5-7, Flack-son 2-30, Green 2-15. T-Smith 1-1. Cincinnati, C.Johnson 10-117, Houshmandzadeh 4-79, Washington 3-35, Walter 2-12, JJohnson 2-3, R.Johnson 1-5. Missed field goals—None.

Chargers 34, Chiefs 31

Chargers 34, Chiefs 31
San Diego 7, 7 3 117–34
Kanasa City First Quarter 710 0 14–71
No 147–710
SD KC 25 20 498 310 31-127 20-110 371 200 1-(-1) 1-1 6-135 6-233 1-13 0-0 28-37-0 21-34-1 28-37-0 21-34-1 28-37-0 3-33-0 First downs
Total Net Yards
Rushes-yards
Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-7 1-8 3-45.0 3-33.0 1-0 1-1 9-60 4-21 36:46 23:14 Punts

Dutts 4-165 3.35 4.56 3.35

Panthers 21, Buccaneers 14

Tampa Bay 0 7 0 7 -14
Carolina First Quarter 0 7 7 7-21
Car-Colbert 24 pass from Delhomme
(Chandler kick), 9:23.
Second Quarter
TB-Pittman 6 pass from Griese (Gramatica kick), 1:55.

Third Quarter
Car—Peppers 46 interception return (Chanler kick), 8:37.

TB—Pittman 8 pass from Griese (Gramatica kick), 6:27.

TB—Pittman 8 pass from Griese (Gramatica kick), 6:20.

Car—Colbert 40 pass from Delhomme (Chandler kick), 2:0.

0. TB Car 20 15 398 300 28-62 25-112 336 188 2-12 1-16 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-6 2-3-10 4-78 2-4-10 4-78 4-2 0-0 0-10 4-78 0-10 First downs
Total Net Yards
Rushes-yards
Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost
Punts Punts Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Vards

Pourts - 1-452 - 4-52 - 4-52 - 4-52 - 5-52 -

Vikings 27, Jaguars 16

Jacksonville 0 13 0 3–16 Minnesota 8 10 7 7–27 First Quarter Min–FG Andersen 25, 6:32.

Second Quarter
Jac-B Jones 26 pass from Leftwich
(Scobe kick), 13:39,
Jac-FG Scobee 33, 11:23,
Min-Culpepper 1 run (Andersen kick),
6:15.

min—culpepper 1 run (Andersen kick), 6:15.—FG Scobee 22, 198, Min—FG Andersen 33, 30. Min—FG Andersen 33, 30. Min—FG Andersen 33, 30. Min—Moss 2 pass from Culpepper (Andersen kick), 5:34. Fourth Quarter Jac—FG Scobee 42, 13:28. Min—K-Williams 77 tumble return (Andersen kick), 129.

Jac hs. 18 24 379 330 27-154 30-112 225 218 2-11 2-32 0-0 7-1 A-64,004. First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns

Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-52 1-21 1-16 0-0 19-34-0 19-27-1 2-10 4-17 2-54.0 2-49.0 3-2 1-1 6-45 4-35 31:17 28:43 Sacked-Yarus Lost Punts Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Time of Possession

BIDVIDUAL STATISTICS
Flexibing—Indicatorille, Tallyor 22: 4/1, Tofled 25, Samarh, Mariaha 24, Taldwards
6-125, Samarh, Mariaha 24, Taldwards
8-18, Campbell 1-16, M.Williams 1-6,
Flexibing—Indicatorille, Little 10-13-6
Flexibing—Indicatorille, Little 10-13-6
Receiving—Indicatorille, Little 10-13-6
Receiving—Indicatorille, Little 10-13-6
Receiving—Indicatorille, Samarh, S

Falcons 24, Saints 21 New Orleans 0 6 8 7—21 Atlanta 7 10 0 7—24

Atlanta Frest Quarter 10 9 7–24
Atl—Nick 16 run (feely visick), 736.
Atl—Pritchett 1 pass from Vick (Feely visick), 736.
Atl—Pritchett 1 pass from Vick (Feely visick), 736.
Atl—Pritchett 1 pass from Vick (Feely visick), 736.
Atl—For Feely Third Quarter NO_Brooks 1 run (Horn pass from Brooks), 218.

oruoks), 2:18. Fourth Quarter

NO—Horn 7 pass from Brooks (Carney kick-od), 11:56.
Atti—Crumpler 20 pass from Vick (Feely kick), 1:22.
A=70,521.

M.—Th.2021.

First downs. 99 21

Total Net Yards 90 30 326

Separation 90 30 326

Post Separation 90 30 326

Post Separation 90 30 326

Post Separation 90 30 326

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Post

Bills 38, Seahawks 9

Buffalo 7 10 7 14-38 Seattle 0 3 0 6-9

First Quarter 9 3 0 6-9 Buf—McGahee 2 run (Lindell kick), 10:38. Second Quarter Buf—FG Lindell 25, 13:30. Bu E-Yann 3 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 10:38.

"scx), 0:06. Third quarter
Buf—McGahee 2 run (Lindell kick), 6:44.
Fourth Quarter
Buf—McGahee 2 run (Lindell kick), 7:24.
Buf—McGahee 2 run (Lindell kick), 7:24.
Quast failed), 3:41.
A=56.27

Buf Sea 25 17 434 230 37-148 17-55 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 37-148 17-55 286 175 2-7 1-0 2-25 6-107 1-0 3-36 26-38-3 19-38-1 1-6 2-10 1-36.0 4-36.5 Punts Punts Punts

Dutts 1.050 e 455.

Firmbles-Lost 5 d 4 15.

Firmbles-Lost 6 d 4 15.

Firmbles-Lost 6 d 4 15.

Firm of Possession 5 d 224.

Time of Possession 5 d 224.

15. Burls 714. John 13. Seattle, Alexander 15.

Burls 714. John 13. Seattle, Alexander 15.

Firmbles-Burls 8 d 204.

Seattle, Alexander 2 d 25.

Firmbles-Burls 8 d 26.

Seattle, Alexander 2 d 25.

Seattle, Alexand

Jets 13, Cardinals 3

NY-FG Brien 28, 3:28.
Ari-FG Rackers 20, 3:00.
Third Quarter
NY-FG Brien 46, 453.
NY-FG Brien 46, 453.
Ari-FG
A-15,200. W All Common
Receiving – New York, Moss 5-109, McCa-reins 2-23, J.Carter 2-18, Chrebet 1-26, Askew 1-11, Jordan 1-3, Sowell 1-3. Arizona, Boldin 8-87, Jones 4-37, Scobey 3-14, Fitzgerald 1-21, Ayanbadejo 1-14, Croom 1-8. Missed field goals—None.

Dolphins 24, 49ers 17

Second Quarter
SF—FG Peterson 19, 301.
SF—D.Smith 46 fumble return (Peterson kick), 14-45.
Minuter 15 pass from Feeley (Mare kick), 10-25.
Minuter 15 pass from Feeley (Mare kick), 10-25.
Minuter 15 pass from Feeley (Mare kick), 10-25.

:10. SF—Hicks 1 run (Peterson kick), :37. A—66.156.

Mia SF 15 15 200 224 26-49 24-77 151 147 5-72 3-11 3-31 4-104 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 1-0 17-33-1 23-38-0 1-8 8-34 7-43.1 9-37.2

Sacked-Varids Lost 1-6 8-34
purts 4-31 8-37
purts 5-47
purts 5-47
purts 7-58

Jackson 1-6. Missed field goal—Miami, Mare 22 (WL). Patriots 24. Ravens 3

A-bd./50. 8al ME:
First downs 8 18
Total Net Yards 124
States 2077 41:144
States 2077 41:

Pourts. 1-044 5-221 Premaities Variant 5-10-10 Femalities Variant 5-10-10 F

Raiders 25, Broncos 24 Oakland Denver 0 7 6 12-25 0 10 0 14-24

Denver Second Quarter
Den—FG Elam 32, 1:55.
Den—R.Smith 85 pass from Plummer (Elam kick), :44.
Oak—Porter 42 pass from Collins (Jani-kowski kick), :16. Third Quarter
Oak—Porter 14 pass from Collins (kick ailed), 12:50.

alled), 12:50. Fourth Quarter.

Den-Droughra 3 run (Elam kick), 14:26.
Den-Ejöhnson 32 interception return
(Elam kick), 32:50. Sept. 10:50. Sept. 10

Patriots defense trumps Ravens

BY HOWARD ULMAN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. - Jarvis Green capped the Patriots' domination when he recovered the slippery ball in the end zone against a team known for its own defensive touchdowns

That was the last scoring play in New England's 24-3 victory Sunday, a rare game in which the Baltimore Ravens had the sec ond-best defense on the field

"I think our defense showed that we can hang with the best of them," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said.

New England (10-1) showed it could march through a rain-drenched field and the NFL's stingiest defense. The Pa-triots gained 314 yards, and Corey Dillon's 123 yards rushing were just one less than Baltimore's total output.

"We had no rhythm," Ravens coach Brian Billick said, "just couldn't get anything going."

Dillon ran for more than 100 yards for the fifth time in six games, boosting his season total to 1.121. Adam Vinatieri kicked three field goals, stretching his successful streak to 21 kicks

"That was as bad of a field as I've ever played on," said Vi natieri, who has kicked big field goals with snow covering the ground. "This is a whole different set of tough situations. It's even more difficult for the guys handling the ball

In their previous six games, the Ravens (7-4) scored four touch-downs on defense and gave up only five. On Sunday, the Patriots offense didn't turn the ball over, despite the rain, while the Ravens lost it twice.

The most important turnover came just 45 seconds after Dillon scored on a 1-yard run and 2-point conversion for a 17-3 lead on the Patriots' first possession of the fourth quarter. Baltimore got the ball back, and Kyle Boller was sacked on the next two plays
— by Ted Johnson and Tedy Bruschi

Bruschi's hit knocked the soggy

hall loose at the Baltimore 8-vard line. Chester Taylor, playing because running back Jamal Lewis missed the game with an ankle injury, dove after it but managed only to nudge it toward the end zone

"The ball just spurted right ıt," Taylor said. Green, a backup defensive end,

didn't make that same mistake. "I saw it slip out of his hands," Green said. "Then I went and attacked it, and it wasn't going to slip out of my hands."

New England won its fourth straight game despite having its top three cornerbacks sidelin - Ty Law, Tyrone Poole and Asante Samuel — while Baltimore's winning streak ended at three.

All the Rayens could manage was a 22-vard field goal by Matt Stover 2 seconds before halftime.

The Patriots set an NFL record by scoring first in their 16th straight regular-season game, breaking a tie for the mark set by Miami in 1978. But the Rayens managed to stop another streak in the first quarter — 16 consecutive quarters in which the Patriots scored.

"Once they got control of the game, that's an awful hard team to beat." Billick said.

Baltimore had given up a league-low 14 points a game in its first 10 games and allowed just one offensive touchdown Sunday on Dillon's run with 3 seconds gone in the fourth quarter.

"That's a tough defense. They're known for intimidating people," Dillon said. "I'd rather do the hitting than be hit.

Then Boller got a taste of what his defense usually inflicts on opposing quarterbacks when New England, which had allowed the sixth fewest points in the league, went after him and sacked him twice, the last resulting in Green's touchdown.

"They're a great team," said Boller, who was 15-for-35 for 93 vards and was sacked four times. They force you to try and make raining so hard that I couldn't throw it."

49ers quarterback Tim Rattay fumbles after being tackled by the Dolphins' Jay Williams in the fourth

49ers prove to be weakest link

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Miami Dolphins spent the holiday week eating room service food and practicing thousands of miles from home, all to prove they were the best of the NFL's worst two

And for the first time in Miami's dismal season, something went according to plan.

Randy McMichael caught a 15-yard touchdown pass with 10:35 to play, and the 49ers fumbled five times in the fourth quar-ter of the Dolphins' 24-17 victory Sunday, leaving hapless San Francisco as the league's only one-win

It was the game of the weak, the battle of the bads - a meeting of two once-proud franchises brought to historic lows by injuries, infighting, poor manage-ment and insufficient talent.

After last week's loss at Seattle. the Dolphins holed up in San Francisco for a second training camp of sorts. Largely thanks to its stifling defense, Miami fin-ished its road trip at .500.

"If we would have lost this game after spending six days in San Francisco, it would have been really miserable," said cornerback Patrick Surtain, who recovered two fumbles. "To come out here with a win, even though these guys are 1-9, we showed a lot of heart. It was huge for us, and hopefully we can build on

San Francisco's surreal inability to hold on to the ball was the most eye-catching part of a game decidedly lacking in artistry, from the 16 punts to the seeming ly endless series of gaffes and stumbles. Miami (2-9) snapped its three-game losing streak with just 200 total yards.

Capped by Derrick Pope's 1-yard fumble return for the clinching touchdown with 3:10 left, the Dolphins scored 17 points off San Francisco's fumbles in the fourth quarter to get the first vic-tories for interim coach Jim Bates and starting quarterback

A.J. Feeley. Hopefully, Bates - the Dolphins' defensive coordinator until Dave Wannstedt's resignation two weeks ago — will remember only his unit's strong perfor-mance, which included eight sacks, and not the ineptitude of just about everything and everybody else.

"A lot of teams, when you are 1-9, you will not see the determination and effort week in and week out that we have given," Bates said. "It is special to be part of this group."

228 yards - 69 on a desperate last-minute drive culminating in Maurice Hicks' score with 37 seconds left

Tim Rattay passed for 181 yards and fumbled three times for the 49ers (1-10), who lost their sixth straight and surged past Miami for the inside track on the top pick in next April's draft. They've also got an excellent shot at the worst record in franchise history: the Niners went 2-14 in 1978 and 1979.

Once again. coach Dennis Erickson was baffled to see his offense waste an outstanding perfor-mance by the defense. Rattay's offensive line seems to regress with every game, and expected stars Kevan Barlow and Brandon Lloyd have been invisible.

"I don't care who you have playing, vou can't operate like we're operating," he said, "We all feel helpless, sure. This is just not the way I envisioned us functioning on offense. We have no rhythm. It's been a mess, there isn't any other way to put it."

Fittingly for these teams, the ame turned on turnovers. San Francisco linebacker Derek Smith returned a fumble 46 vards for his first career touchdown early in the fourth quarter for a 10-7 lead, but Surtain recovered Hicks' fumble moments later.

AFC: Mediocre NFC teams benefiting from alignment That's by default: If their division isn't the NFL's

AFC. FROM BACK PAGE

Chiefs to rush for eight touchdowns.

If the season ended now, the wild-card entries in

the AFC would be the Jets (8-3) and either the Broncos or Ravens (each 7-4). No need to get into tiebreakers yet; with five games left, those scenarios

can get very complicated.

The way the NFC is breaking down, the wild cards are likely to be the team that doesn't win the North, where the Vikings and Packers are battling for first place, and the West, either Seattle or St. Louis. And

one or both could be 8-8; the NFC West winner might even be .500. Think about the Seahawks, who were routed 38-9 by Buffalo at home Sunday, but still lead the NFC West at 6-5

It was the first road win in five tries this seas for the Bills, who are 2-6 against AFC teams, 3-0

against the NFC. Here's the good thing. We're still in first place," Seattle's Shaun Alexander said after the game

worst, then it's the NFC East - minus the Eagles, who clinched the division Sunday and are 4-0 against the other three division teams, with a combined victory margin of 135-50. In fact, the East is the home of the poster boys for

the NFC's incompetence: the Giants

They have lost four straight, five of six and when Michael Strahan was lost for the season with a torn pectoral muscle, they basically decided to tank this season by giving Eli Manning a seven-game break-in period at quarterback. Manning was every bit the rookie against the Eagles on Sunday, going 6-of-21, throwing two interceptions, taking five sacks and finishing with an anemic passer rating of

Yet at 5-6, the Giants remain very much in the wild-card race

Del Rio's Jaguars? If they were in the NFC, they'd be on their way to the postseason



Seattle Sea hawks' Ken Lucas (21) intercepts a nass in the end zone on Sunday. Seattle lost 38-9 to the Bills to drop their record to 6-5, but still lead the NFC West.

Saints don't have a prayer of stopping Vick in Atlanta

Versatile QB throws for 2 TDs, runs for another

BY PAUL NEWBERRY The Associated Press

ATLANTA - The New Orleans Saints knew what they were up against — and there wasn't much they could do when Michael Vick started running around.

Vick added another play to his highlight reel, throwing a 20-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crum-pler with 1:22 remaining to give the Atlanta Falcons a 24-21 victory Sunday.

This was vintage Vick.

He took the snap and looked left, but had to dart right to avoid the rush. Then, changing directions suddenly, he sprinted back to the left to get away from more pressure. A Saints player sprawled on the turf took a swipe at Vick's legs as he went by, but the quarterback managed to rifle the pass to Crumpler at the pylon.

"Hev. the Falcons have a secret weapon over there who is the league's worst-kept secret. Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie said. "He's from another world.

Crumpler isn't too bad, either The Pro Bowl tight end boxed out Jason Craft like a basketball player going for a rebound, and easily made the catch when the

cornerback fell down.

Crumpler also caught a 27-vard pass that set up the winning touchdown, finishing with four receptions for 103 yards. All of his catches were for at least 20 yards, improving his season average to 16.5 — astounding for a tight end.

Afterward, Crumpler sat at his locker, working out his per-catch numbers on a calculator.

"That's the only thing my dad ever talks about." he said. "He always wants to know what I'm av-

James Allen appeared to save the Saints when he stripped the



Falcons tight end Alge Crumpler, top, jumps to avoid Saints defender Mel Mitchel after making a catch in the fourth quarter Sunday in Atlanta. Crumpler caught the decisive TD pass in Atlanta's 24-21 victory.

hall from Warrick Dunn at the New Orleans 6 with 3:11 to go. But Vick still had time to bail out the Falcons (9-2).

Saints went three-and-out, and Atlanta took over at the New Orleans 47. Vick had nearly 2 minutes to work with, but he and Crumpler needed only two plays to get the Falcons into the end zone. They got things started with a 27-yard play, as Crumpler found a seem in the New Orleans zone.

"I always feel like we're going to score a touchdown." Vick said. "I have confidence I can do almost anything when I step out

Vick had a hand in all three Atlanta touchdowns. He passed for two scores, completing 16 of 29 for 212 yards. He also ran 16 yards for a TD and led the Falcons with 69 yards on 10 carries.

No one remembered the intercention that set up New Orleans' go-ahead touchdown.

The Saints looked much better than a high school team - the comparison owner Tom Benson made after an ugly 34-13 loss to Denver last week. But it didn't stop New Orleans from its sixth loss in eight games.

'Gosh, we played out hearts out," defensive end Charles Grant said. "When they find a way to win like that, it's a heartbreaker"

Atlanta is virtually assured of the third division title in franchise history, leading the other three teams in the NFC South by five games with five to play.

"We're for real," Crumpler

The Saints fell behind 14-0 early in the second quarter and were down 17-6 at the half before Aaron Brooks rallied his team He scored on a 1-vard sneak and threw to Joe Horn on a 2-point conversion, pulling the Saints to

Vick then made a huge blunder. Trying to set up a screen, he threw the ball right to Grant. The 290-pounder rumbled 8 yards to the Atlanta 30, and Brooks finished it off with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Horn with 11:56 remaining.

It was the first time all season that Atlanta had given up a lead in the fourth quarter.

Deuce McAllister ran 23 times for 100 yards for the Saints, while Horn made nine catches for 101



nver Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith, top, is upended by Oakland Raiders safety Stuart Schweigert after a short gain in the fourth quarter of the Raiders' 25-24 victory in Denver on Sunday.

A complete snow job by Raiders in Denver

The Associated Press

DENVER - Leading by 11 late in the game, playing at home in the snow, the Denver Broncos looked well on their way to win No. 8 and a share of first place in the AFC West.

As it turned out, though, the Silver and Black looked more at home in the white stuff than Denver did

Kerry Collins threw for 339 yards and threw three of his four touchdowns to Jerry Porter to lead the Oakland Raiders to a come-from-behind upset in the snow Sunday night, 25-24 over the Broncos

"We could have packed it up, but we didn't," Raiders coach Norv Turner said.

Collins' final TD pass to Porter was the winner — on fourth-and-goal from the 5 with 1:49 remaining. Porter, who beat Champ Bailey for his first two TDs and another 52-yard recep tion, looked in his element on a winter-wonderland kind of night. "It was hell out there." Porter

said. "But it was cold, too." After Oakland took the lead, Jake Plummer drove the Broncos to the Raiders 25 to set up Jason Elam's go-ahead field goal-at-

But the snap was high, Elam kicked the lace-side of the ball and Langston Walker blocked the kick to preserve the win for the Raiders (4-7), who will surely count this as a major highlight of a difficult year.

"I don't know if anyone outside

our own group thought we could do this," Turner said.

The Broncos (7-4) fell one game behind the Chargers in the AFC West with a game at San Diego coming next week. The weather will surely be better there. Coach Mike Shanahan wasn't using that as an excuse for this loss, though

"Both teams had to play in the same conditions," Shanahan said. They made some big plays and we had a few big plays, too. But they made the plays when it counted and found a way to get it done'

Oakland's winning touchdown was set up by a 63-yard completion from Collins to Ronald Curry, who a few minutes earlier made a spectacular one-handed grab in the back of the end zone to cut it to 24-19.

Collins finished 26-for-45 and showed no fear of Bailey.

His first touchdown to Porter came on a post route down the middle of the field in which Bailey let the Raiders receiver slip behind him. The second was on a simple slant in which Collins rifled the ball perfectly and Bailey couldn't prevent Porter from mak ing the catch or tackle him before he crossed the goal line.

"The plays were there," Collins said. "It just happened to be Champ on the coverage. Our whole receiving group made

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

- Drew Brees, Chargers, was 28-for-37 for 378 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-31 win over Kansas City.

 Min over Kansas City.

 for 412 yards, the second-most yards in his career, and five touchdowns in a 58-48 loss to Cincinnat!.

 ◀ Carson Palmer, Bengals, threw a ca-
- eer, and five touchiowns in a 30-46 Accidental.

 Carson Palmer, Bengals, threw a carrhigh four touchdown passes and fined 22-for-29 for 251 yards.

 Brian Griese, Bucs, went 27-for-39 for 347 yards, two touchdowns and an interception in a 21-14 loss to Carolina.

Running backs

- Rudi Johnson, Bengals, ran for a season-high 202 yards and two cores on 26 carries in a 58-48 win
- scores on 26 carries in a 58-48 win over Cleveland.

 Willis McGahee, Bills, had 116 yards and four touchdowns on 28 carries in a 38-9 win over Seattle.

 Domanick Davis, Texans, rushed for a season-high 129 yards, including a 41-yard



■ Chad Johnson, Bengals, had 117 yards and a touchdown on 10 receptions in a 58-48 win over Cleveland.
■ Keary Colbert, Panthers caught a 40-yard touchdown pass, his second of the game, with 20 seconds remaining to lift Carolina to a 21-14 victory over the Bucs. Colbert finished with 72 yards on three catches.

hree catches.

Michael Pittman, Bucs, had eight atches for 134 yards and touchdown reseptions of 6 and 8 yards in a 21-14 loss



■ Antonio Gates, Chargers, had seven catches for 92 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-31 win over Kansas City.
■ Alge Crumpler, Falcons, had four catches for 103 yards and the game-winning 20-yard scoring reception in a 24-21 win over New Orleans.

Kevin Williams, Vikings, returned a fumble 77 yards for the clinching score in a 27-16 win over the Jag-

score in a 27-16 win over the Jag-uar's lury Poppers, Panthers, run an interception back 66 yards for a score, blocked a field goal and had a sack in a 21-14 win over Tampa Bay. O'Neal, Bergals, re-turned by the companies of the Deltha Chemistry of the Chemistry of the Louchdown with 1:33 to play, sealing Cincinnait's 58-48 win over Cleveland. I Javis Green, Patriots, recovered a Tumble in the end zone in a 24-3 win over Baltimore.

SPORTS



Auburn needs USC or Oklahoma to stumble if it's to have a shot at a national title, Page 34

AFC doomed by disparity

Tougher conference hurting some teams' playoff hopes

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

After his Jaguars lost in Minnesota on Sunday, Jack Del Rio sounded like a coach who knows his team is in the wrong confer-

"The window is closing," he said, mean-ing the playoff window for a 6-5 team that is fourth in an AFC wild-card chase in which only two teams will succeed. Too bad they're not in the NFC: 6-5 would put the Jaguars just about at the top of the wild-card race in a conference where an 8-8 team or worse could make the playoffs.

That is the NFL in a nutshell this year. The NFC has one substantial team, the Eagles. The AFC has at least a half-dozen, from the Patriots and Steelers at the top through the Colts, Chargers, Jets and Bron-

In fact, the Jaguars' 27-16 loss in Minnesota was a perfect indicator of the current makeup. Up-and-coming Jacksonville was within 19 yards of the go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter when Kenechi Udeze sacked Byron Leftwich and forced a fumble that was returned 77 yards by Kevin Williams for the clinching TD.

In other words, a middle-of-the-pack AFC team on the road scared one of the NFC's top four.

Don't necessarily go by the record in interconference games — who cares that Miami beat San Francisco? — although the AFC leads 32-18. Still, history says that can be deceptive: When NFC teams won 13 straight Super Bowls from 1984-1996, the AFC won the season series six times and three other times the conferences tied. But in that era, most of it before free

agency and the salary cap, the top NFC teams were perennial powers. The 49ers won four titles in that run; the Cowboys three; the Redskins and Giants

two each; and the Bears and Packers one. San Francisco, Washington, New York and Chicago in particular were consistent winners. The Cowboys, after sliding in the late '80s, were a team good enough to win the 1995 title under Barry Switzer, a very rage (or worse) NFL coach who inherit

ed Jimmy Johnson's talent.

All those teams were clearly better than the best in the AFC.

Buffalo lost four straight Super Bowls from 1990-93 and Denver three -1987 and 1989. The Broncos finally ended the NFC's run by beating the Packers after the 1997 season and the Falcons the next year, a late retirement present for John

So ves. these things run in cycles

And yes, an NFC team could win the Super Bowl this year if the Eagles survive the demons that have caused them to lose three straight conference championship games. They are on a level with the top AFC teams, even if they were run over 27-3 in Pittsburgh on Nov. 7, their only loss

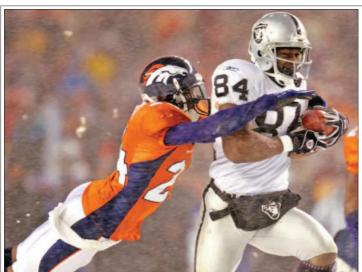
Still, the standings after 11 weeks demonstrate the disparity.

All four AFC division leaders are 8-3 or better: New England and Pittsburgh (10-1); San Diego and Indianapolis (8-3). In the NFC, only Philadelphia and Atlanta (9-2) are in that category and the Falcons

Jacksonville Jaguars' Deon Grant (37)

reacts on the sidelines during the closing minutes of their loss to Minnesota Sunday really aren't a complete team yet — think back to their 56-10 loss to Kansas City, a

3-8 AFC team, when they allowed the SEE AFC ON PAGE 38



Raiders' late flurry **buries Broncos**

Raiders receiver Jerry Porter breaks free from Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey during the fourth quarter. Porter burned Bailey for two touchdowns before hauling in the game-winner with 1:49 left as Oakland rallied in the snow at Denver with two touchdowns in the final 6:11. See story on Page 39.